

Mosby: Six Officers Indicted in Baltimore Case



Baltimore States Attorney Marilyn Mosby, center, announces the indictments of six Baltimore Police officers Thursday, May 21, 2015, on various charges related to the arrest and death of Freddie Gray. (Kevin Richardson/The Baltimore Sun via AP)

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Sweeping U.S. trade bill passes key Senate vote

JONATHAN WEISMAN
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WASHINGTON - A flurry of last-minute deal-making on the Senate floor Thursday rescued President Barack Obama's ambitious trade agenda from defeat, breaking a filibuster to advance legislation that would empower the president to complete a sweeping, 12-nation Pacific trade accord.

For the second time this month, Democratic opponents nearly brought down a carefully brokered deal to give the president authority to complete a trade accord spanning the Pacific and encompassing 40 percent of the world's economy on products ranging from airplanes to running shoes.

But with the legislation seemingly headed to defeat, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the majority leader, began deal-making, primarily to persuade enough Democrats to support the measure. He agreed to bring an extension of the Export-Import Bank to a vote before its authorization lapses June 30, and he promised Ohio's senators a vote on an amendment to aid the embattled steel industry.

Those deals brought along 62 senators, just above the 60-vote threshold to keep the trade bill from falling to a filibuster.

"I want to thank the bipartisan group of senators who took a big step forward this morning on a trade agenda that is consistent with strong labor standards, strong environmental standards, and access to markets that too often are closed even as these other countries are selling goods in the United States," Obama told reporters at the White House.

The fate of the trade promotion bill remains in doubt. The Senate must still vote on a series of amendments - some highly contentious - before a final vote on the trade legislation, probably on Friday. If, as is now likely, it passes

the Senate, it faces strong, bipartisan opposition in the House.

"We understand we've got work to do," said Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wis., who is leading efforts to round up Democratic votes for trade promotion authority in the House.

Still, Thursday's vote was a high and difficult hurdle. It clearly established trade negotiating authority has the votes it needs in the Senate, and it vindicated the strategy of McConnell, who strictly limited the number of amendments to the trade bill and jammed it into the last week before the Senate's Memorial Day recess.

"It was a nice victory," McConnell said with relief after the vote.

To get it through, the majority leader had to set up another high-stakes showdown over the Ex-Im Bank, a 70-year-old federal agency that guarantees loans for U.S. companies exporting products overseas. Conservatives have labeled the agency a crony capitalist favor factory and have demanded its demise.

But a majority of Congress supports the bank's extension if it can get a vote, and Democrats decided to take a stand for it.

"We just want people to stand up and be counted in June before the bank expires," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., who supported the trade legislation but blocked it until she got assurances on the Export-Import Bank.

The Senate must still navigate a series of amendments to trade promotion authority, some of them highly problematic for the bill's ultimate fate. Among those amendments are a bipartisan push to demand any trade deal address the intentional manipulation of currency rates and a proposal by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., to strip from the Pacific trade deal language granting corporations the right to challenge regulations in mem-

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Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell speaks to reporters following the cloture vote on the Trade Bill on Capitol Hill in Washington, May 21, 2015. The Senate on Thursday voted to break a filibuster to advance legislation that would empower President Barack Obama to complete a major Pacific trade agreement.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

ber nations that harm the value of their investments. McConnell promised the Ohio Sens. Rob Portman, a Republican, and Sherrod Brown, a Democrat,

he would also give them a vote on Brown's amendment to speed the government's response when industries say foreign competitors are unfairly "dump-

ing" produces on the U.S. market at prices designed to put them out of business. House Republican leaders want no significant change to the bill. □

Mosby: Six Officers Indicted in Baltimore Case

JULIET LINDERMAN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — All six officers charged in the police-custody death of

Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced about three weeks ago. The most serious charge for each officer, ranging

from a van, Mosby has said. His pleas for medical attention were repeatedly ignored, she said. Mosby said prosecutors

She also did not take questions.

"As is often the case, during an ongoing investigation, charges can and should be revised based upon the evidence," Mosby said.

In all, three of the officers had additional charges brought against them while three others had one less charge.

Gray was arrested April 12. He died in a hospital a week later and became a symbol of what protesters say was police brutality against blacks.

Two officers, Edward Nero and Garrett Miller, were indicted on second-degree assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment.

Caesar Goodson, who drove the transport van, faces manslaughter and second-degree "depraved heart" murder. Sgt. Alicia White, Lt. Brian Rice and officer William Porter are each charged with manslaughter, second-degree assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment.

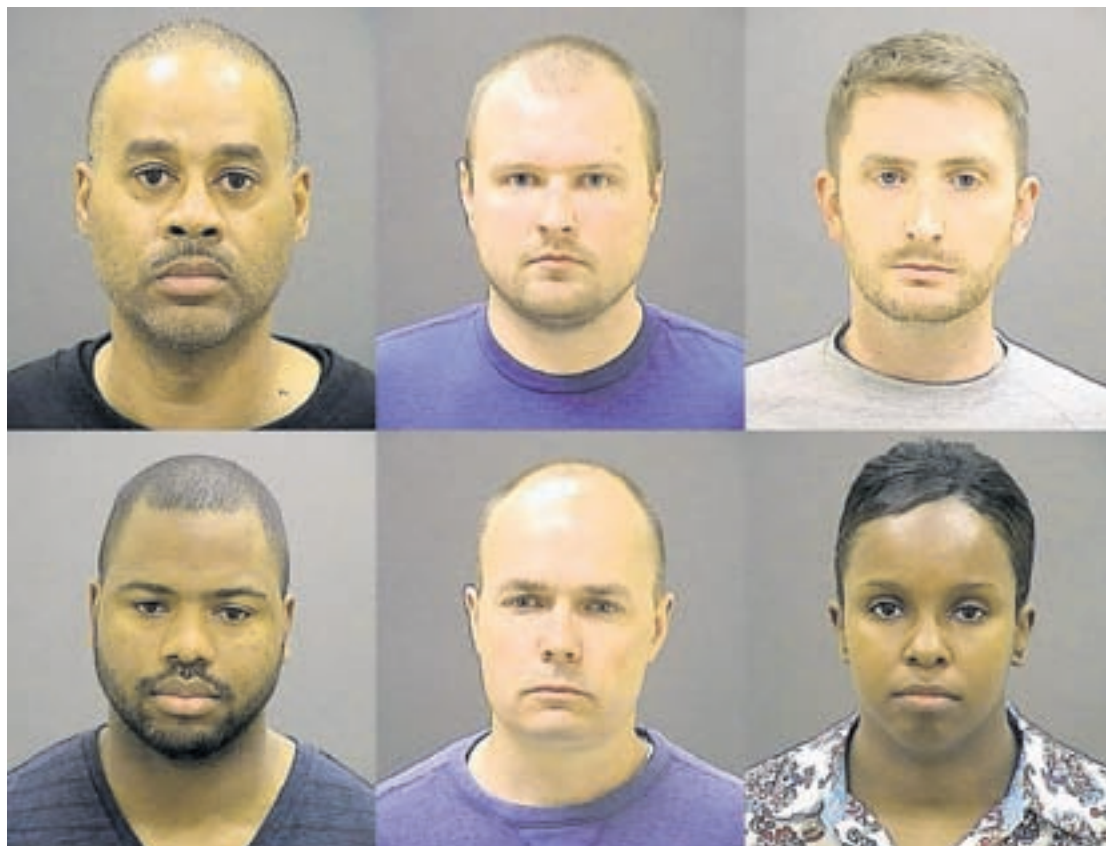
Gray died on April 19, one week after he was critically injured, and his death inspired outrage among Baltimore residents that spawned protests that at

least two points gave way to violence, looting and arson. In the wake of the riots, Democratic Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake implemented a curfew for all Baltimore residents, and Republican Gov. Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency.

Gray was arrested in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore. According to court documents, Gray made eye contact with a police officer and took off running. He was apprehended two blocks away and arrested for possession of what Miller wrote in charging documents is illegal under a city ordinance.

Mosby said the arrest was unlawful because the knife is legal under state law.

None of the officers secured Gray's seatbelt in the van, a violation of police policy. Soon after he was placed in the van, Goodson stopped to secure him with leg irons because he had become "irate," police said. After a ride that included several more stops, including one to pick up a second passenger, the van arrived at the Western District station house. By that time, Gray was non-responsive. □



Photos provided by the Baltimore P.D. of, top row from left: Caesar Goodson Jr., Garrett Miller and Edward Nero, and bottom row from left: William Porter, Brian Rice and Alicia White, the six police officers charged with felonies ranging from assault to murder in the death of Freddie Gray. (Baltimore Police Department via The New York Times)

an African-American that prompted rioting in Baltimore were indicted by a grand jury, a prosecutor said Thursday. The indictments were very similar to the charges Bal-

timore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced about three weeks ago. The most serious charge for each officer, ranging from second-degree "depraved heart" murder to assault, still stood. Gray suffered a critical spinal injury after police handcuffed, shackled and placed him head-first into

had presented evidence to the grand jury for the past two weeks. Some of the charges were changed based on new information, but she didn't say what that new information was.

New York:

Man who intervened in 2013 biker assault testifies at trial

JAMES C. MCKINLEY Jr
© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - A Washington Heights man who intervened as a gang of motorcyclists was beating the

driver of a sport utility vehicle testified Thursday that he still does not know why the attackers listened to him.

The man, Sergio Consuegra, said he saw several bikers drag Alexian Lien from his car and begin to smash his head with their helmets and fists, while two other motorcyclists tried to pull Lien's wife, Roselyn Ng, from the passenger's seat, one of them saying, "You're going to get it, too."

Consuegra, 53, said he waded into the fray after Lien went down, his body not moving and his face bloodied. He said he held out his arms and barked at the enraged bikers. "I said: 'That's it, guys, let it go! Let it go!'" he testified at the

trial of two men accused of taking part in the attack. "Somehow I managed to stop them," Consuegra said. Consuegra said after the attack he became afraid of reprisals from other members of the pack of bikers, who had been part of a scofflaw tour of New York City on Sept. 29, 2103, when they became embroiled in a road fight with Lien on the West Side Highway. Outside court, Consuegra said he never received any threats, but he still became so worried about his security that he quit his job at a medical supply company in Orangeburg, New York, and went to work for a taxi company, thinking he would be harder to find. □

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At Press Time:

Suspect in wealthy family deaths believed to be in New York

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Marine and ex-convict accused in the slayings of a wealthy executive and three other people had worked for the businessman's construction company and is believed to be on the run in New York, authorities said.

Police searched Thursday for Daron Dylon Wint, 34, who may have friends and family in the Brooklyn area of New York and was seen there Wednesday night, authorities said. Wint is being sought on a first-degree murder charge.

"Right now, you have just about every law enforcement officer across the country that is aware of his open warrant and are looking for him. Even his family has made pleas for him to turn himself in," Washington police Chief Cathy Lanier said.



Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, center, flanked by Police Chief Cathy Lanier, left, and Special Agent in Charge Charlie Smith, Bureau of ATF, speaks during a news conference in Washington, Thursday, May 21, 2015, on the investigation into the mysterious slayings of a wealthy Washington family and their housekeeper.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Wint is suspected in the killings of 46-year-old Savvas Savopoulos; his 47-year-old wife, Amy; their son, Philip; and housekeeper Veralicia Figueroa. Firefighters found their bodies when they responded to a fire at the family's house May 14. Au-

thorities believe the fire was intentionally set.

Investigators believe Wint, a certified welder, worked for Savopoulos' company American Iron Works in the past. Savopoulos was the chief executive of American Iron Works, a con-

struction-materials supplier based in nearby Hyattsville, Maryland, that has been involved in major projects in downtown Washington. The Savopouloses lived in a \$4.5 million home Woodley Park, where mansions are protected by fences and elaborate security systems and local and federal law enforcement officers are a constant presence, in part because Vice President Joe Biden's official residence is nearby.

"For residents of the district who are rightfully scared and want answers as to why and how this family may have been involved, we want to give you as many answers as we can," Lanier said. "What we can tell you right now is that we

do believe there is a connection between the suspect in this case through the business. So right now it does not appear that this was a random crime."

Investigators used DNA analysis conducted at a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms lab to identify Wint, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

New York Police Commissioner William Bratton said he received a call from the D.C. police chief Thursday, saying the suspect may be in south Brooklyn. Officers are circulating a photo of Wint. □

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Man who landed gyrocopter at US Capitol pleads not guilty

JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man who flew a gyrocopter through some of America's most restricted airspace before landing at the U.S. Capitol said Thursday that he will never pull a similar stunt again — and doesn't recommend anyone else try it either.

Douglas Hughes made the comments after appearing in federal court in Washington where his lawyer entered a not-guilty plea to the six charges Hughes now faces.

Speaking outside of court,

Hughes said he wouldn't change anything about his April 15 flight in the bare-bones aircraft, but that he wouldn't be repeating it.

"Let me be clear. I'll never do anything like this again," said Hughes, who has said his flight was intended to call attention to the influence of big money in politics.

He said he believes that if his flight exposed any security flaws, they have been fixed.

"Nobody else could do what I did and get away without at best being forced down, at worst be-

ing shot down, and I highly recommend nobody try it," he said. Hughes, 61, began his flight in southwestern Pennsylvania and was arrested after he landed.

On Wednesday, a grand jury indicted him on charges that carry up to 9½ years in prison. The charges Hughes now faces include two felonies: operating as an airman without an airman's certificate and violating aircraft registration requirements. Those charges carry a maximum of three years in prison. He also faces three misdemeanor offenses of violat-



Carrying an umbrella that says "shame" on it, Douglas Hughes of Florida leaves federal court in Washington, Thursday, May 21, 2015. Hughes, who flew a gyrocopter through some of America's most restricted airspace before landing at the Capitol pleaded not guilty on Thursday to the six charges he faces.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

ing national defense airspace, each carrying a maximum of one year in prison.

Hughes, who had been employed by the U.S. Postal Service and lives in

Ruskin, Florida, also faces a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle falsely labeled as a postal carrier, a charge that carries a statutory maximum of six months in prison. □



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Boy Scouts' leader notes ban on gay adults not sustainable

DAVID CRARY
JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the Boy Scouts of America said Thursday that the organization's long-standing ban on participation by openly gay adults is no longer sustainable and called for change in order to prevent "the end of us as a national movement."

Robert Gates, in a speech in Atlanta to the Scouts' national annual meeting, referred to recent moves by Scout councils in New York City and elsewhere to defy the ban.

"The status quo in our movement's membership standards cannot be sustained," the former U.S. secretary of defense said. Gates said no change in the policy would be made at the national meeting. But he raised the possibility of revising the policy at some point soon so that local Scout organizations could decide on their own whether to allow gays as adult volunteers and paid staff.

In 2013, after bitter internal debate, the Scouts decided to allow openly gay youth as scouts, but not gay adults as leaders. □

California: Major oil clean- up starts, sticky crude collected

C. WEBER
B. MELLEY

Associated Press

GOLETA, California (AP) — More than 7,700 gallons (29,000 liters) of oil has been raked, skimmed and vacuumed from a spill that stretched across 9 miles (14 kilometers) of California coast, just a fraction of the sticky crude that escaped from a ruptured pipeline, officials said Thursday. Up to 105,000 gallons (400,000 liters) may have leaked from the pipeline Tuesday, and up to 21,000 gallons reached the sea just northwest of Santa Barbara, according to estimates from the pipeline operator.

The environmental impact was still being assessed, but there was no immediate evidence of widespread harm to birds and sea life. The early toll on wildlife included five oil-covered pelicans, which were taken in to be cleaned, officials said.

Biologists counted dead fish and crustaceans along sandy beaches and rocky shores.

The spill occurred along a long, rustic coast that forms the northern boundary of the Santa Barbara Channel, home to a rich array of sea life.

Whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, sea otters and birds use the waters between the mainland and the Channel Islands, five of which are a national park surrounded by a national marine sanctuary.

The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969 — the largest in U.S. waters at the time — that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement.

Workers in protective suits shoveled black sludge off beaches, and boats towed booms into place to corral two oil slicks.

The number of cleanup workers surpassed 300, and the number of boats working the slicks rose to 18, officials said. □



wednesday | may 20

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thursday | may 21

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7am - 10am

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE SUPPA DUPPA MORNING SHOW W/ SUPPA KID & DEE -
LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

10am - 2pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

10am - 3pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA GREY - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

3pm - 7pm

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MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE FRANK SKI SHOW - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

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friday | may 22

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THE AM/PM WORKLOAD SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

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saturday | may 23

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Harbor Arena (Oranjestad)

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sunday | may 24

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Baby Beach (San Nicolas)

Transportation: See De Palm Tours Hotel Desks

FEATURING: DJ DIABLO, ARUBA & DJ OUTCAST, ST. MAARTEN

SOUL BEACH MUSIC CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Harbor Arena (Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO CONCERT VENUES)

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Hosted By: DOUG E. FRESH

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

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Renaissance Convention Center (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: DJ DEE WIZ, NEW YORK & DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

monday | may 25

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China, US assert rights after South China Sea exchange

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING/WASHINGTON

(AP) — China said Thursday it is entitled to keep watch over airspace and seas surrounding artificial islands it created in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, following an exchange in which its navy warned off a U.S. surveillance plane. The United States said its aerial patrolling was in accordance with international law.

The comments came as the Chinese air force announced its latest offshore training exercises in the western Pacific as part of efforts to boost its combat preparedness. An air force spokesman said that followed an initial offshore drill held last month and future such exercises would likely be planned.

A news crew from CNN reported it witnessed an incident Wednesday in which a Chinese navy dispatcher demanded eight times that a U.S. Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft leave the area as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work. It said the U.S. crew responded that they were flying through international airspace, to which the Chinese dispatcher answered: "This is the Chinese navy ... You go!"

CNN said it was given exclusive permission to board the surveillance flight because the U.S. wants to raise awareness of China's island building project. It also said it was the first time the Pentagon

had declassified audio of the Chinese making such challenges. The Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank posted more video Thursday of

the aerial patrol above the Spratly island chain which it said had been released by the U.S. Navy.

Speaking at a regular daily briefing, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesman Hong Lei reiterated Beijing's insistence on its indisputable sovereignty over the islands it has created by piling sand on top of atolls and

reefs.

While saying he had no information about the reported exchange, Hong said China was "entitled to the surveillance over related airspace and sea areas so as to maintain national security and avoid any maritime accidents."

"We hope relevant countries respect China's sovereignty over the South China Sea, abandon actions that may intensify controversies and play a constructive role for regional peace and stability," Hong told reporters at a daily news briefing.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters: "I saw the video. I don't think I'd call it a confrontation. There were certainly verbal warnings given by the Chinese. It's unclear on what basis they issued these warnings."

"U.S. military planes operate in accordance with international law in disputed areas of the South China Sea. □



Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei speaks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Beijing, China. China said Thursday, May 21, 2015 it is entitled to keep watch over airspace and seas surrounding artificial islands it created in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, following a reported exchange in which its navy warned off a U.S. surveillance plane. Speaking at a regular daily briefing, Hong reiterated Beijing's insistence on its indisputable sovereignty over the islands it has created by piling sand on top of atolls and reefs.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

US, Cuba pushing to re-establishing embassies

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

HAVANA/WASHINGTON

(AP) — American and Cuban officials were trying Thursday to complete talks to re-establish embassies in each other's capitals after a half-century interruption. Many differences appeared close to being resolved.

The top U.S. diplomat for Latin America, Roberta Jacobson, was meeting with her Cuban counterpart,

Josefina Vidal, at the State Department, though officials suggested a breakthrough was unlikely.

The talks come as two of the biggest obstacles to the restoration of U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations are being removed.

Cuba will come off the U.S. state sponsor of terrorism list on May 29.

Also, the U.S. says Cuba's Interests Section in Washington has established a relationship with a

U.S.-based bank, meaning it won't have to operate on cash anymore.

Other issues remain.

The U.S. is still seeking to ensure its diplomats can travel throughout Cuba and meet with dissidents without restrictions.

In a symbolic show of closer U.S.-Cuban ties, 10 Cuban journalists attended Thursday's White House briefing and press secretary Josh Earnest offered the final question to one of the

reporters. A woman who identified her news organization as Cuban National Television took up the opportunity.

Cuban President Raul Castro recently complained about U.S. programs for training Cuban journalists, calling them an "illegal" infringement on Cuba's sovereignty. The State Department says it maintains such democracy programs in "restrictive environments" around the world. □

Fears mount over Palmyra as IS expands territory in Syria

ALBERT AJI
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press
DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —

Fears mounted over the fate of one of the Mideast's most prominent archaeological sites after Islamic State militants overran the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, seizing control Thursday of its temples, tombs and colonnades within hours. The takeover also expanded the extremists' hold, making them the single group controlling the most territory in Syria.

"The Syrian regime appears to be in terminal decline, and the Islamic State group in its timing is capitalizing on recent losses by government forces in the north and south," said Amr Al-Azm, an antiquities expert and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio. The militants overran the famed archaeological site early Thursday, just hours after seizing the nearby town in central Syria, activists and officials said. They also captured Palmyra's airport and the notorious Tadmur prison, delivering a startling new defeat for President Bashar Assad, whose forces quickly retreated. Hundreds of Palmyra residents fled the town of 65,000, and many more were trying to es-

cape, said Talal Barazi, the governor of central Homs province, which includes Palmyra.

An oasis set in the Syrian desert, Palmyra is a strategic crossroads linking the capital Damascus and cities to the east and the west. Its capture raised alarm over some of the world's most important ancient ruins, whose fate remained unknown Thursday, and no photos or video emerged from the militants.

"We are in a state of anticipation and fear," said Maamoun Abdulkarim, the head of the Antiquities and Museum Department in Damascus. "The city is now totally controlled by gunmen and its destiny is dark and dim."

A UNESCO world heritage site, Palmyra boasts 2,000-year-old towering Roman-era colonnades, temples and priceless artifacts that have earned it the affectionate name among Syrians of the "Bride of the Desert."

They are the remnants of an Arab client state of the Roman Empire that briefly rebelled and carved out its own kingdom in the 3rd Century, led by Queen Zenobia, with Palmyra as its capital. Before the war, it was Syria's top tourist attraction, drawing tens of



Syrian soldiers at the Temple of Bel, an ancient stone ruin, in Palmyra, Syria. Islamic State fighters fought their way into a part of the central Syrian city of Palmyra on May 20, 2015, bringing them within blocks of one of the world's most magnificent ancient sites.

(Sergey Ponomarev/The New York Times)

thousands of visitors each year.

It includes a 3,000-seat am-

phitheater overlooking a colonnaded main avenue where plays, concerts and

youth festivals were staged.

Continued on Page 27

Report: Iranian ship with Yemen aid has arrived at Djibouti's port

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

An Iranian cargo ship loaded with aid bound for Yemen arrived in Djibouti on Thursday and is anchored offshore, a U.S. official said. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said the ship is in Djibouti waters and will dock "within hours."

The diversion of the ship to the small African country where the U.N. is coordinating the response to Yemen's conflict would defuse a potential crisis with Saudi Arabia, which had warned the ship not to proceed directly to Yemen. Iran had provided the ship with a naval escort and

warned against any interference.

Iran supports the Shiite rebels in Yemen, known as Houthis, who seized the capital last year, but Tehran denies arming them. Saudi Arabia views the rebels as an Iranian proxy and has led a coalition in air raids against them since March 26, hoping to restore to power Yemen's internationally recognized President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who has fled the country.

U.S. officials said the ship had been heading toward Djibouti for much of the day, escorted by a frigate and a logistical ship known as an oiler. □

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EU seeks to keep partnership with ex-Soviet nations on track

KARL RITTER

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — The European Union on Thursday urged six post-communist countries to move closer to the 28-nation bloc as a way to resist Russia's "bullying tactics" and build a brighter future for their citizens.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day summit in Riga, EU President Donald Tusk warned the former Soviet republics they had little to gain from falling back into Moscow's orbit instead of deepening their partnership with the West. "The Eastern Partnership isn't a beauty contest between Russia and the EU," Tusk said. "But let me be frank, beauty does count. If Russia was a bit softer,

more charming, more attractive, perhaps it would not have to compensate its shortcomings by destructive aggressive and bullying tactics against its neighbors."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel backed up Tusk's criticism of Moscow, saying that "the EU makes a crystal clear difference with Russia. We accept that the different Eastern Partnership nations can go their own way and we accept these different ways."

The EU's partnership program with Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus suffered a major setback 1 1/2 years ago, when Ukraine's then-president Viktor Yanukovich withdrew from signing an association agreement and opted for closer

links with Moscow and President Vladimir Putin.

After Yanukovich was ousted, Ukraine's new leadership turned back

nation is in deep economic decline.

Meanwhile, Armenia and Belarus limited their relations with the EU by joining



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, is welcomed by Latvian President Andris Berzins as she arrives for a formal dinner at the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga, on Thursday, May 21, 2015. EU leaders on Thursday will seek new ways to bolster ties with six post-communist nations in Eastern Europe, a year and a half after a previous summit of the Eastern Partnership ended with a fateful standoff over Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis)

toward the EU but paid a heavy price: Russia annexed Crimea, large swaths of eastern territory bordering Russia are embroiled in conflict and the

Russia's Eurasian Economic Union and Azerbaijan is showing little excitement about the EU partnership, sending its foreign minister to Riga instead of its presi-

dent. Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova are still seeking deeper integration, but many EU countries are reluctant to open the door for membership in the Western club.

The EU promised grants of 200 million euros (\$223 million) over the next 10 years to promote small and medium-sized businesses in the three countries.

But Merkel on Thursday said the EU should not raise any false expectations in the talks with the eastern partners.

"The Eastern Partnership is not an instrument for (EU) enlargement but it is an instrument to get closer to the EU," Merkel said.

Eastern nations face many challenges to deepen ties with the EU, including improving justice systems and economic structures and fighting corruption.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko assured that his country was ready to tackle corruption "and improve the investment climate." □



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Ukraine suspends military ties with Russia

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's parliament on Thursday voted to suspend military cooperation with Russia in a long-anticipated move signaling a further break in relations between the once-close partners. Kiev also produced what it claimed was fresh confirmation of involvement by Russian intelligence in sowing unrest in breakaway eastern regions, saying it is evidence of continued Russian plans to destabilize Ukraine.

The five cooperation agreements scrapped by the Verkhovna Rada include one giving the Russian military transit rights

to reach Moldova, whose territory is partly controlled by a Moscow-supported separatist government. Relations between Russia and Ukraine plummeted after the overthrow in February 2014 of Moscow-friendly Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. Russia subsequently annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Kiev also accuses Moscow of arming and staffing separatist insurgencies in eastern Ukraine. Russia staunchly denies it is involved with the armed separatist insurgency in Ukraine.

In turning away from Russia, Ukraine has increasingly reached out for assistance to NATO, an organi-

zation the current government hopes the country will eventually join.

Russia has about 1,500 troops stationed in Trans-Dniester, a landlocked separatist strip of Moldova that borders Ukraine. Rescinding the transit rights for those troops creates a logistical problem for Russia and no solution was immediately apparent.

"As it now stands, we have to think about it, find a way. We shouldn't toss away Trans-Dniester and Moldova," said Vladimir Komoedov, chairman of the defense committee of the lower house of the Russian parliament, according to the Interfax news agency. □



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Ex-Haiti prime minister submits papers to run for president

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Former Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe submitted papers to run for president shortly before the election office's deadline, after repeatedly saying he had no plans to seek Haiti's top political position. A few hundred supporters of Lamothe, who resigned under pressure late last year amid a political standoff with the last Parliament, chanted and cheered as he arrived by motorcade late Wednesday at an electoral office in the capital. "This is about keeping the country moving forward. The progress needs to continue," Lamothe told The Associated Press after he handed in his paperwork about three hours before the deadline. Other candidates who have submitted papers to run for president include Jude Celestin, the last election cycle's government-backed candidate, and Maryse Narcisse, the leader of the Fanmi Lavalas party founded by former two-time President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Officials said more than 50 candidates hope to run.

A board will review would-be candidates to verify they meet constitutional requirements, including not holding foreign citizenship. Last week, New York-born first lady Sophia Martelly's bid to run for a Senate seat was rejected by the electoral council, a move heralded by political analysts as a sign the body is independent. It's far from clear Lamothe will be cleared to run as the candidate of the Peyizan political group. His critics insist he is ineligible because he did not receive a required certificate from Parliament that he never mis-spent public money while in office. But Salim Succar, Lamothe's adviser when he was prime minister, asserted a judge gave the former official the necessary "discharge" to run for office



Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe speaks at the State Department in Washington. Lamothe, who resigned under pressure late last year amid a political standoff with the last Parliament, submitted papers to run for president late Wednesday, May 20, 2015 shortly before the election office's deadline. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

again since there is no functioning legislature. "They cannot hold the dysfunctionality of Parliament against him," Succar said. Since January, President Mi-

chel Martelly and his prime minister have been running the government without a sitting Parliament because the terms of a majority of the members expired before

new elections could be held. Martelly replaced Lamothe with veteran politician Evens Paul after Parliament dissolved in early January amid a bitter political stalemate with lawmakers. Martelly is due to leave office in 2016 after a presidential election scheduled for October. Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011 for a majority of Senate seats, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local offices. Those long-delayed elections are now scheduled for August. Lamothe has said his 31-month tenure was the longest for a Haitian prime minister and asserted the country made significant gains during that time, particularly considering the 2010 earthquake that flattened much of the capital and surrounding areas. □

Venezuela, US officials discuss Colombia peace talks

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro met with a U.S. diplomat in Caracas Wednesday to discuss ways the two countries can support the peace process in

neighboring Colombia. The U.S. Embassy in Caracas confirmed the meeting between Maduro and the U.S. special envoy for the Colombian peace process, Bernie Aronson. Aronson

was expected to leave Venezuela Thursday. Maduro has repeatedly offered his help as Colombia conducts peace talks with leftist guerrillas to end 50 years of fighting. Aronson's visit comes a

week after senior U.S. diplomat Thomas Shannon met with officials in Caracas for talks aimed at easing tensions between the U.S. and the socialist South American country. □

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ECB head Draghi: Growth is 'too low everywhere' in Europe

DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

SINTRA, Portugal (AP) — European Central Bank head Mario Draghi said that "growth is too low everywhere" in the 19-country eurozone despite a modest recovery. Draghi made the blunt remark as he opened a conference on the unemployment prob-

lem plaguing several of the European Union member countries that share the euro currency. "Recently, economic conditions have improved somewhat in Europe," he said at the ECB's conference on inflation and unemployment in Sintra, Portugal. "But growth is too low everywhere."

He said that inflation was

too low — a sign of economic weakness — and that "people in Europe are frustrated by the lack of growth they have witnessed in recent years."

Draghi's remarks come as the eurozone shows increasing signs of recovery. The economy grew 0.4 percent in the first quarter, and growth this year may be

strong enough to start whittling down an unemployment rate of 11.3 percent, economists say. Still, it could take years to achieve a significant reduction in the jobless rate, which remains painfully high in the weaker member countries. Youth unemployment is 50 percent in both Greece and Spain.

The eurozone also faces a challenge in Greece, where the government is struggling to pay its debts despite two rounds of bailout loans from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. A default could lead Greece to leave, raising questions about the currency union's permanence. □

Japan ups ante in race to boost influence in Asia with cash

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Vying to keep pace with China's rising influence and economic clout, Japan plans to provide \$110 billion to help develop roads, ports and other infrastructure in Asia in the next five years, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Thursday.

Abe announced the commitment, which exceeds the \$100 billion China has set for its newly created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, at a conference in Tokyo.

It represents about a 30 percent increase over current funding levels.

"Asia has a voracious infrastructure demand, reaching as much as 100 trillion yen (about \$830 billion) annually," Abe said, adding that "we should seek 'quality as well as quantity.' Pursuing both is perfectly suited to Asia."

In addition to the \$110 billion in financing in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, Japan will provide 4 trillion yen (\$33 billion) in support for public-private lending over the next five years, Abe said.

Japan sided with the U.S. in not joining the 57 countries

that have signed on to the Beijing-initiated AIIB. It says it wants to see if the new institution will meet the rigorous standards for operation and disclosure required of other lenders, such as the

investment, but had not specified how much Japan would spend.

Japan is eager to counter rising Chinese influence in the region. Analysts say their rival efforts will likely

be spent will be channeled through Japan's aid agencies and the remainder will be extended in collaboration with the ADB.

Despite friction between the two countries over vari-

panding manufacturing capacity and trade in the region, especially in Southeast Asia, and can benefit themselves from improved ports, railways, roads, energy systems and other key facilities.

The scale of financing is still nowhere close to the \$8 trillion the ADB says is needed by 2020 to help build up essential infrastructure.

"This is good news but it's a drop in the bucket," said Alison Evans, a senior analyst with IHS Economics & Country Risk in London.

The greatest benefit, she said, would go to smaller countries with the biggest needs, such as Myanmar and Laos.

"Definitely, as far as the recipient countries are concerned, the more funding the better," she said. "There's more than enough opportunities to go around."

Although China and Japan are rivals as the world's second- and third-biggest economies, they also have different advantages that can meet varied needs. With Chinese lenders, project planners need to "jump through fewer hoops," Evans said. □



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a banquet of a symposium on the "Future of Asia" in Tokyo, Thursday, May 21, 2015. Vying to keep pace with China's rising influence and economic clout, Japan plans to provide \$110 billion to help develop roads, ports and other infrastructure in Asia in the next five years, Prime Minister Abe said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

Officials earlier announced plans to step up support for regional infrastructure

complement rather than compete with each other given the region's huge need for vital infrastructure. About half of the funds to

ous issues, Abe has said he sees eye-to-eye with China on the need for infrastructure funding. Both Japan and China are rapidly ex-

Merkel, Hollande and Tsipras talk about Greek bailout woes

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — French President Francois Hollande said he will huddle with his German and Greek counterparts Thursday to pave the way for a special eurozone meeting of finance ministers late this month or early June about Greece's bailout woes.

Hollande said at the open-

ing of the Eastern Partnership summit that he will join Chancellor Angela Merkel for a friendly discussion with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras "where we need to draft solutions" to be worked out later by the eurozone ministers.

The meeting comes a day after a leading official from Tsipras' party said that Greece will not be able to

repay a loan to the International Monetary Fund early next month unless a deal is reached with its creditors to unblock bailout funds.

Greece's new government has been struggling for four months to agree on reforms that creditors require in return for the disbursement of the remaining 7.2 billion euros (\$8 billion) of the country's bailout program.

Locked out of the international bond market by prohibitively high interest rates, Greece relies on the bailout funds to service its debts and avoid default. There had been rumors there would be an extraordinary meeting of eurozone finance ministers to keep Greece from financial collapse, but Hollande said the leaders were meeting

to prepare for "the expected eurogroup meeting at the end of the month or early June."

Adding to the struggles with its international creditors, Tsipras is also facing dissent within his own Syriza party, with some members saying that lenders are trying to force the government to abandon pre-election promises. □



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Pay attention to the Chef's Specialty, the Risotto Iron Chef, carnaroli rice with seared sea scallops, leeks and edible rose petals, appropriately named as this is the dish that gave our twins: Chefs Nicola and Fabrizio Carro, born in Italy, the title of Iron Chef America.

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doors this week. The word "Altamar" literally translates to "high seas or open seas". The menu offers the best and freshest seafood, prepared in ways that will accentuate the natural flavors of the sea: catch of the day, live lobsters and oysters, signal-

ing what would be an evening of excellent gastronomic adventure. Start your evening with a cocktail at the premium bar and try the signature drink: The Apple Spice Altamar Martini, which is an infusion of bartender Tito's handmade vodka, splash

of soda and homemade Spice Apple juice. A highly recommended appetizer will be: the Duo di Tonno, an artfully prepared appetizer of Tuna Carpaccio with crispy capers, olive oil and Tuna Tartar with cherry tomatoes and toasted pistachio.

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on the ship was given afterwards. Congratulations were received from Carnival Cruise Lines' Vice President, Amilcar Cascals, and Director Product Development, Erika Tache:

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PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is perfectly located between Radisson Aruba Resort and Riu Palace Hotel on the famous Palm Pier with stunning 360° views of the crystal clear ocean. Tonight this beach bar is presenting a new, exclusive and amazing live music event: "Bugaloe in

Concert". Starting at 8PM, Bugaloe will transform to a music event stage featuring their very own entertainers Mercedes, Ben, Joy & Amy! Tonight, the new additions of the team will introduce themselves for the very first time, as they set out to give the best "Bugaloe in Con-

cert" event ensuring you'll dance and swing the night away to top 40 all-time hit songs. Starting tonight, the event will continue to take place every other Friday night from 8PM till 11PM. "Bugaloe's in Concert" gives you top of the bill performers that are not new to the art of singing and



entertaining as Mercedes, Ben and Joy have years of experience on the stage. Both Ben and Joy graduated in Musical Theater Studies at prestigious academies in The Netherlands. Mercedes has been singing her whole life, even recording, producing and writing her own songs and Amy even performed around the world singing her own music.

Since opening 9 years ago, many loyal and new guests have been finding their way down the white sandy path while Bugaloe continues to brighten days.

Not one but two daily happy hours from 5 – 6pm and 10 – 11pm were recently renewed to continue to surprise guest with exciting

and exclusive entertainment as the trio will serve drinks at Happy Hour and belt out tunes all at the same time, without missing a beat or spilling a drop. This new form of entertainment is only the next step in Bugaloe's continuing mission to amuse and attract a wide variety of guests. Come down to the best beach bar at De Palm Pier and enjoy a fun night under the Caribbean sky, with perfect sunset views, fresh food and a delicious cocktail in hand!

The entrance is free, so clear your schedule between 8PM – 11PM and we will see you singing, dancing and swinging away at "Bugaloe in Concert"! □

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Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Nikita Kucherov, of Russia, celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal against the New York Rangers during overtime in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Tampa, Fla.
Associated Press

Kucherov's OT goal gives Lightning 2-1 edge in East finals

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Russia's Nikita Kucherov scored in overtime to give the Tampa Bay Lightning a 6-5 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday, taking a 2-1 lead in their NHL Eastern Conference finals series.

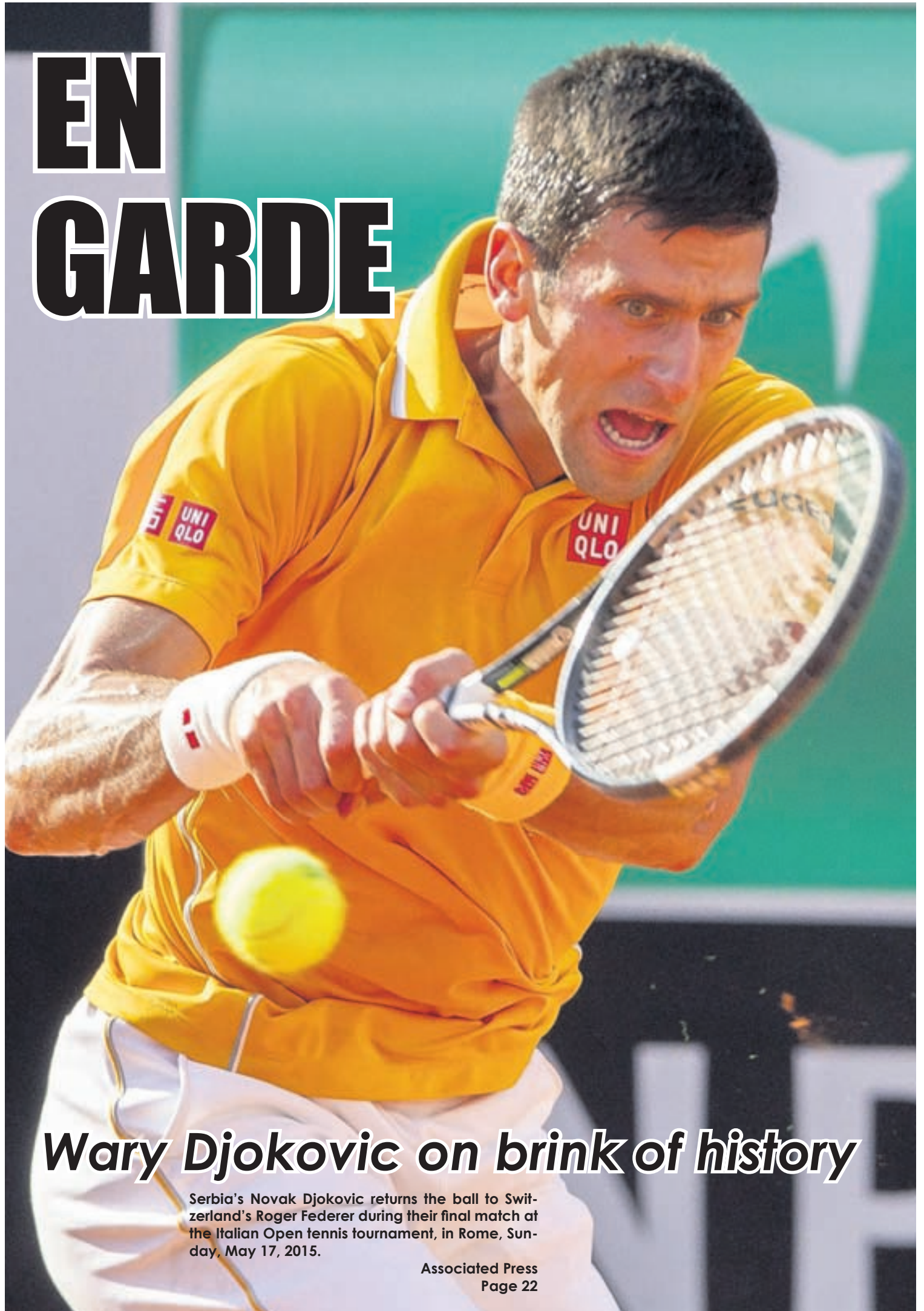
Ondrej Palat had two goals and an assist, and Tyler Johnson, Steven Stamkos and Alex Killorn each had one goal and an assist for the Lightning.

The 21-year-old Kucherov, part of the high-scoring 'Triplets' line that is leading Tampa Bay's playoff run, scored his second overtime winner of this postseason.

Linemate Ondrej Palat had two goals and an assist, and Tyler Johnson — the other triplet — had his playoff-leading 12th goal, as well as an assist.

Continued on Page 20

EN GARDE



Wary Djokovic on brink of history

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their final match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Sunday, May 17, 2015.

Associated Press
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Prince to miss beginning of WNBA season to play for Russia

DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Liberty guard Epiphanny Prince will miss perhaps the first month of the WNBA season to try to help Russia qualify for next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

"It was something I was committed to do," Prince said. "I want to help them get back to where they used to be."

The 27-year-old Brooklyn native played for the Russian national team two years ago, trying to help it earn a spot in the 2014 world championship. Russia didn't make it.

"That was frustrating that we didn't qualify, but I know we have a good chance this time," said Prince. "I play in the winter with a lot of their national team players so we know each other much better now."

She has a chance to be the second American-born player to play for Russia's national team in the Olympics. Becky Hammon played in the last two Olympics for Russia and also the 2010 world championship. Prince became a naturalized citizen in 2010.

Prince, who was traded to the Liberty in February, was upset that her debut with her hometown team would have to wait.

"I'm sad I'm going to miss playing here. This will be the first time I'm able to play in a Liberty jersey in front of my family and friends," she said. "But I'll have many more chances."

The Liberty knew when they acquired Prince for Cappie Pondexter that their new guard would miss a month.

"It's a long-term thing, not a short-term thing," Liberty coach Bill Laimbeer said of acquiring Prince. "She'll be a really good player for us. She wants to be in New York. We'll muddle through the 10 games, get her back and see what we got."

Prince is one of a handful of players, who will be playing in the Eurobasket tournament, which runs from June 11-28. Kristi Toliver (Slovakia), Shavonte Zellous (Croatia), Celine Dumerc (France) and Anna Cruz (Spain) are a few others who will miss WNBA games.

Toliver, Cruz and Dumerc are already with their national teams.



New York Liberty WNBA basketball players Epiphanny Prince, right, and Tina Charles talk during practice Thursday, May 21, 2015, in Tarrytown, N.Y.
Associated Press

Prince leaves on Friday and Zellous will head out from Indiana Fever training camp soon.

"I wanted to be with the team as much as I could before I headed overseas," Prince said.

Next month's Eurobasket won't be the only tournament forcing players to miss WNBA games. Fever forward

Natalie Achonwa will play for Canada in the Pan-Am Games and the FIBA America qualifiers this summer. She missed her rookie season last year while recovering from an ACL tear. She was excited for the chance to play again for her country.

"It's always great to have an opportunity to represent Canada," said

Achonwa in April when she was the director of basketball operations for her alma mater Notre Dame. "The fact that both the tournaments this summer are in Canada makes it even more special."

The teams and the WNBA have the option to fine the players for the time they missed. □

Baseball Capsules

Nationals overcome ejections to beat Yankees 3-2

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Evan Gattis hit a two-run homer to help Dallas Keuchel earn his eighth straight win as the Houston Astros kept rolling with a 6-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday.

The Astros improved to an American League-best 27-14, giving them the best start through 41 games in franchise history. Sitting atop the AL West, this is the latest the Astros have led their division since May 22, 2004.

Keuchel (6-0) allowed six hits and no earned runs in seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.67. He's won eight straight decisions dating back to last year, which is the longest streak by a starter in the majors. And his 6-0 mark this year is the best by an Astro since Roger Clemens opened the 2004 season at 9-0.

NATIONALS 3, YANKEES 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cleanup hitter Bryce Harper and manager Matt Williams were both ejected in the third inning, but Washington came back to beat New York on Denard Span's tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh.

Harper, the National League Player of the Week twice in a row, entered with 10 homers in his previous 12 games.

In his second at-bat, he got into an argument with plate umpire Marvin Hudson after a first-pitch strike call and was tossed. Williams then came out of the dugout to move Harper out of the way and get in Hudson's face, leading to the second ejection.

After getting kicked out, Williams went over and kicked dirt on home plate — with one swipe by each foot.

Span drove in an unearned, go-ahead run with a bases-loaded single off reliever Justin Wilson.

CARDINALS 9, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Adams hit a long three-run homer and Jason Heyward also connected as St. Louis enjoyed a second con-



Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper (34) and manager Matt Williams (9) argue with home plate umpire Marvin Hudson during the third inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Nationals Park, Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Washington. Harper and Williams were ejected by Hudson.

secutive offensive outburst, besting Bartolo Colon in a rout of New York.

Matt Holliday and Kolten Wong both had three hits to back Carlos Martinez (4-2), who pitched 6 1-3 innings of four-hit ball in ending his two-game skid. Following a 10-2 victory Tuesday night, the Cardinals improved the best record in the majors to 27-13.

Pitching four days before his 42nd birthday, Colon (6-3) finally began to show his age.

Trying again to become baseball's first seven-game winner, he was hit hard all game and even walked two batters — one more than he had all season.

And coupled with Washington's victory over the New York Yankees, the Mets' loss dropped them out of first place in the NL East for the first time since April 14.

RANGERS 2, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP) — Phil Klein allowed one run in his first major league start and Robinson Chirinos hit a solo homer as Texas beat Boston.

The Rangers took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on a sacrifice fly by Elvis Andrus after singles by Adrian Beltre and Mitch Moreland. They made it 2-0 in the third when Chirinos hit his fourth homer of the season.

Klein, called up Wednesday from Triple-A Round Rock, allowed four hits through four scoreless innings before giving up a leadoff homer to Xander Bogaerts, his second of the year, in the fifth.

Texas won for only the second time in six games and split the first two games of the three-game series.

Klein (1-0), who has 23 relief appearances in his career, left with runners at first and second and one out in the sixth.

ANGELS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Marc Krauss hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh inning as Los Angeles rallied to beat Toronto for its seventh win in nine games. Mike Trout hit a solo homer and Jered Weaver pitched seven innings to win his third straight start. The Angels

have rallied to win in five of their past six victories.

Krauss's key hit came one inning after he replaced Albert Pujols, who left after being hit on the left hand by a pitch from Toronto's Drew Hutchison. The Angels said Pujols suffered a concussion.

Weaver (3-4) allowed three runs and four hits.

Joe Smith worked the eighth and Huston Street finished for his 14th save.

Toronto lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

BRAVES 2, RAYS 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Williams Perez gave up one run over five innings in his first major league start and fellow rookie Todd Cunningham drove in the tiebreaking run with a groundout as Atlanta beat Tampa Bay.

The Braves bullpen threw four scoreless innings to close out the win for Brandon Cunniff (2-0). Jason Grilli picked up his 12th save to ensure a split of the two-game series.

Freddie Freeman scored the go-ahead run after reaching on a ground-rule

double in the sixth inning. He advanced to third on Nick Markakis' single and scored on Cunningham's grounder.

Rays right-hander Jake Odorizzi (3-4) allowed two runs and four hits over six innings. It was the eighth time this season the Rays have scored two runs or less in one of his starts.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP) — Chase Anderson allowed four hits in a career-high eight innings as Arizona dealt Miami its sixth straight loss.

David Peralta drove in three runs and A.J. Pollock had three of the Diamondbacks' six stolen bases. He had three hits and scored four times.

Anderson (1-1) picked up his first win of the season in eight starts. He walked one while striking out two. Anderson pitched into the ninth and left the bases loaded with nobody out, but Brad Ziegler was able to finish off the Marlins allowing just one run to score. □

Associated Press

Smith, James lead Cavs past Hawks 97-89 in Game 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Cleveland's LeBron James, complemented by a sharp-shooting J.R. Smith, led the Cavaliers to a valuable road victory in the opening game of the NHL Eastern Conference finals on Wednesday, beating Atlanta 97-89.

While James led Cleveland with 31 points, it was Smith who ignited the Cavaliers, making eight 3-pointers and scoring 28 points.

"When he gets hot," Cleveland coach David Blatt marveled, "he gets smoking hot." Intent on bringing Cleveland its first NBA title, James sealed the victory with a soaring dunk in the final minute.

For the Hawks, it was the second straight series in which they've lost the opening game at home. Cleveland will look to take command of the series in Game 2 on Friday.

Making matters worse for Atlanta, DeMarre Carroll went down with a knee injury with 4:59 remaining. He will undergo an MRI scan on Thursday to determine the seriousness.

Besides being the main defender on James, Carroll had been the Hawks' leading scorer in the playoffs. He was averaging more than 17 points coming into Atlanta's first conference final.

"DeMarre is a complete player," Hawks coach



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots against Atlanta Hawks during the second half in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs, Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Mike Budenholzer said. "He has a big impact at both ends of the court."

Jeff Teague led Atlanta with 27 points. But Atlanta

didn't produce its usual balanced scoring, as two starters — Kyle Korver and Carroll — failed to reach double figures.

With Smith doing most of the damage, Cleveland outscored the Hawks 22-4 over the final 5 minutes of the third quarter and the

first 2 minutes of the fourth. During that span, he made five 3-pointers and another jumper from just inside the arc, as well as throwing up a lob that Tristan Thompson dunked.

Smith has been a huge addition for the Cavaliers since he was acquired in January as part of a three-team trade with New York and Oklahoma City. A player once known for his selfishness, he had learned to work within the confines of a team led by James.

"Once I start shooting," Smith said, "everybody keeps telling me to keep shooting."

Cleveland scored the first 11 points of the final period — all but two on 3s by Smith — for its biggest lead, 85-67. Carroll's injury silenced the raucous crowd and would be a tough blow for the Hawks to overcome. While he was being taken off, James came over to say a few words and pat the injured player on the head. "We're all a brotherhood," James said. "You don't want anybody to get hurt like that."

Even without Carroll, Atlanta closed to 91-87 with about a minute remaining. But James got loose from Paul Millsap out near the arc, took off down the lane uncontested and slammed home a dunk that finished off the Hawks. □

NHL Capsules

Continued from Page 17

"They've impressed me for a long time, and now they're impressing the world," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It's fun to watch."

Steven Stamkos and Alex Killorn each had one goal and an assist for Tampa Bay.

The Lightning overcame an early 2-0 deficit and won despite also squandering a two-goal lead to the resilient Rangers.

The winner came about a minute after New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist

made a terrific stop on J.T. Brown's breakaway.

New York had tied it 5-5 on Dan Boyle's rebound with 1:56 left in regulation. Jesper Fast scored twice, and the Rangers also got power-play goals from Derick Brassard and Ryan McDonagh.

"It was deflating, but at the same time ... we felt like we deserved the game," Johnson said about losing the lead late in regulation. "We worked hard and were happy with the way we played,"

added Johnson, whose hat trick keyed the Lightning's 6-2 road victory in Game 2. "We knew if we just kept on



Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman (77), of Sweden, and New York Rangers defenseman Ryan McDonagh (27) fight for the puck during the second period of Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

playing, played our game, we were going to get a bounce. Luckily for us, we got that bounce before them."

The Rangers came back after trailing 4-2, with Fast scoring his second goal late in the second period and McDonagh converting a power-play opportunity early in the third.

"We've got a pretty quick team and they have a quick team," Cooper said. "It's just, pardon the pun, it's lightning fast."

It's just amazing how the skill level and the speed and how these guys can play the way they do at that high pace." □

Mcllroy opens with 71, 6 shots off leader Molinari

JACK BEZANTS

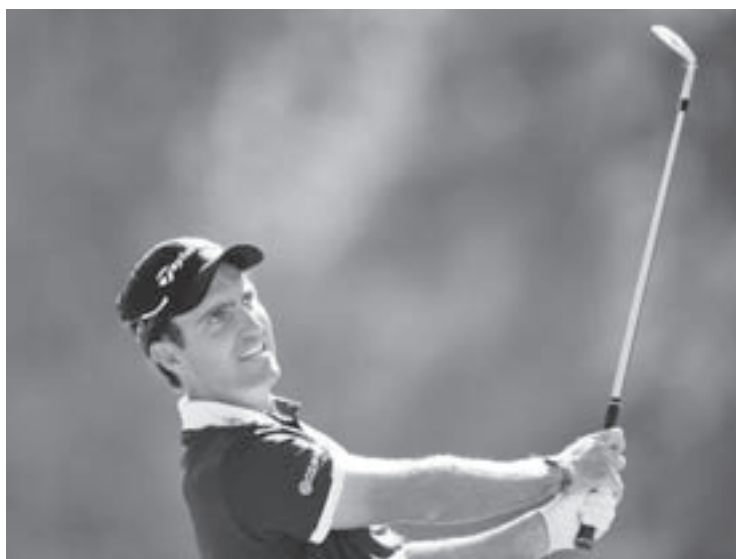
Associated Press

VIRGINIA WATER, England

(AP) — Defending champion Rory Mcllroy shot a 1-under 71 on Thursday, leaving him six shots behind leader Francesco Molinari at the BMW PGA Championship after a mixed performance he blamed on mental fatigue.

Playing for the fourth straight week, the top-ranked Mcllroy failed to recapture the form that saw him surge to a record seven-shot victory at the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow last week. Mcllroy had two birdies and two bogeys in his first five holes, missing a 12-foot putt for par at the first hole after failing to find the green with his approach. He went birdie-bogey-birdie from Nos. 12-14, and could not take advantage of par-5s on the final two holes.

"Physically I feel fine but mentally I could feel myself getting down on myself out there, which is not



Italy's Francesco Molinari during day one of the 2015 BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Golf Club, Virginia Water, England Thursday May 21, 2015. Associated Press

something I have been doing the last three weeks," Mcllroy said.

"I just need to be aware of that and keep everything on an even keel. It is acceptance of bad shots. Every time I have played well this year, I have been talking about how mentally good I have been. I feel like my patience was wearing thin out there today."

Molinari carded a flawless

65, closing his round with two straight birdies on the last two holes.

The Italian has three top-10 finishes in the last three years at the European Tour's flagship event and came second at the Spanish Open last week.

"It is a great start but you don't win the trophy on the first day," Molinari said.

"I like the course, I think it rewards accuracy more than others, which suits my

game."

Robert Karlsson is two shots behind Molinari. The Swede went round in 67, making two of his six birdies across the last three holes. "It was nice to put a good round together," Karlsson said. "I was careful off the tee, it is important round here to keep the ball in play. Hopefully this is the start of a good run."

Justin Rose also began his tournament with a 1-under

71, and two-time winner Luke Donald made a 2-under 70.

Stephen Gallacher and Padraig Harrington were both forced to withdraw from the competition through injury.

Gallacher, who was part of Europe's 2014 Ryder Cup winning team, has a wrist injury while Harrington, who won the Honda Classic in March, has a shoulder problem. □

Sporting KC scores 3 times in 14 minutes, beats Revolution



New England Revolution forward Juan Agudelo (17) scores past Sporting Kansas City goalkeeper Tim Melia (29) in the first half of an MLS soccer game Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP) — Krisztian Nemeth scored a goal in each half as Sporting Kansas City beat the New England Revolution 4-2 on Wednesday in Major League Soccer. New England scored the first and last goals of the

game after Juan Agudelo beat two defenders and sent a shot past the oncoming goalkeeper in the 11th minute. Scott Caldwell angled home Charlie Davies' back-pass in the 64th.

The game swung when

Sporting KC scored three first-half goals in 14 minutes.

Dominic Dwyer equalized it at 1-1 in the 29th minute by rolling in a left-footed shot after settling a cross with his chest.

Nemeth's glancing header of Benny Feilhaber's free kick gave Sporting KC a 2-1 lead in the 39th. Four minutes later, Feilhaber converted a penalty after New England was called for a questionable foul in the penalty area.

Nemeth made it 4-1 in the opening minute of the second half when Jacob Peterson won the ball deep in New England territory and fed a cross to an unmarked Nemeth.

Sporting KC had not played since May 9 because its match against Colorado was postponed last weekend. New England had its nine-game undefeated streak snapped. □



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GEORGE CLOONEY | BRITT ROBERTSON
Disney
TOMORROWLAND
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:20 | 9:05 PG
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:35 | 6:20 | 9:05
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:00
FRI 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SAT 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00



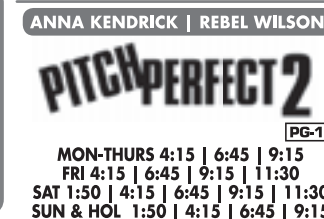
SAM ROCKWELL | ROSEMARIE DEWITT
POLTERGEIST
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:10 | 9:40
FRI 5:10 | 9:40 | 11:55 PG-13
SAT 5:10 | 9:40 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 5:10 | 9:40
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 7:25
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:55 | 7:25



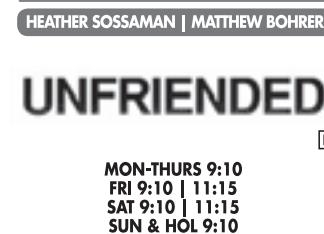
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HOT PURSUIT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
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SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:05 | 7:10 | 9:20



TOM HARDY | CHARLIZE THERON
MAD MAX FURY ROAD
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 9:30 R
FRI-SAT 4:20 | 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 4:20 | 9:30
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 6:55
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:50 | 6:55



ANNA KENDRICK | REBEL WILSON
PITCH PERFECT 2 PG-13
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15
FRI 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15



HEATHER SOSSAMAN | MATTHEW BOHRER
UNFRIENDED R
MON-THURS 9:10
FRI 9:10 | 11:15
SAT 9:10 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 9:10



KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50
FRI 4:40 | 6:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

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FRENCH OPEN 2015:

Nadal's slump could open way for Djokovic

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

For years and years — a full decade, in fact — Rafael Nadal ruled the French Open the way no one had ever dominated any Grand Slam tennis tournament, winning 66 of 67 matches and collecting nine championships, including the last five in a row.

This year, his far-poorer-than-usual results on red clay and acknowledged crisis of confidence are generating talk that his reign at Roland Garros might be about to end.

When the season's second major tournament begins Sunday, the lefty from Spain will not be the favorite, despite what he's done in the past. Instead, Novak Djokovic is considered the man to beat, as he bids to complete a career Grand Slam and extend a terrific season that includes the Australian Open title and a current 22-match winning streak.

"Nadal has shown some weakness this year, both physically and mentally, that we just haven't seen from him, and I think that's turned the light on in the locker room for some other players," U.S. Davis Cup captain Jim Courier, a two-time French Open champion in the 1990s, said in a telephone inter-

view. "There are players now who think they can get him, and I don't know that, other than maybe Novak, that was necessarily the case before."



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after losing a point during a quarter final match against Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Friday, May 15, 2015. Nadal has lost on clay for the fifth time this season. Associated Press

There are other story lines to watch, as always.

What is Roger Federer still capable of at age 33? Can Andy Murray stay unbeaten as a married man? Could Serena Williams become the third woman with 20

major titles? Could Maria Sharapova win a third French Open championship in four years?

Yet nothing should be as fascinating as following

than three clay matches in a single season all the way back in 2003.

His heavy topspin forehand hasn't been as reliable. He's been less aggressive. Courier sees movement that's not as fluid, too, with a longer, less powerful stride.

There are other issues for Nadal, whose 14 Grand Slam titles are tied with Pete Sampras for second-most among men, behind Federer's 17. His only French Open loss came against Robin Soderling in the fourth round in 2009.

Humility long has been a Nadal trademark, but he's been unusually frank about feeling nervous and lacking self-belief.

"I'm still playing with too much nerves for a lot of moments, in important moments, still playing a little bit anxious in those moments," Nadal said in late March. "But I'm going to fix it. I don't know if in one week, in six months, or in one year, but I'm going to do it."

In 2014, he arrived at Roland Garros with three losses on clay and appeared vulnerable to some, then began slowly. By the end of the 15-day tournament — surprise! — Nadal had collected yet another trophy.

"Players carry scar tissue with them from difficult defeats. Nadal has been

the best I've seen at putting minor defeats and minor issues behind him and just looking ahead to the next point. But it feels like this year he's carrying a little bit of the weight of past misses and isn't looking ahead with quite the same crystal-clear vision he's had," Courier said. "You can see a little frustration in his eyes at times, something that we would never really see before." Chris Evert, whose 18 Grand Slam titles included seven at the French Open, thinks opponents notice.

"Look at his face," Evert said in a telephone interview. "He seems baffled: 'Why can't I hit those winners like I used to?'"

If Nadal truly is different this time around, Djokovic seems best positioned to take advantage.

In 10 previous appearances at Roland Garros, Djokovic exited six times against Nadal, including each of the past three years — twice in the final, once in a semifinal.

Djokovic can become the first man since Courier in 1992 to win the Australian Open and French Open in the same year, moving halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam.

"We'll take it step by step," Djokovic said, "and see how far I can go." □



Belgium's Philippe Gilbert looks back as he crosses the finish line to win the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race from Imola to Vicenza, Italy, Thursday, May 21, 2015. Associated Press

champion, attacked and surged ahead of a couple breakaway riders to cross

big mountain stages. "This was a stage I came to inspect after the Milan-San

Contador extends lead; Gilbert wins 12th stage of Giro

Remo, so I knew every aspect of the last 70 kilometers. These types of finishes are my specialty."

Contador crossed second, three seconds behind, and gained a six-second bonus. Diego Ulisse was third. Aru finished outside the top 20, 11 seconds behind Gilbert.

"My legs are getting better every day," said Contador, who dislocated his shoulder in a fall on the final sprint of Stage 6. "I've got a lot of confidence. ...

I saw (Aru) was having a tough time keeping up so I went to the front."

A two-time Tour champion, Contador won the Giro in 2008 and was also triumphant in Milan in 2011 but was stripped of that title for testing positive in the 2010 Tour.

In the overall standings, Contador now leads Aru by 17 seconds. Aru's Astana teammate Mikel Landa is third, 55 seconds back.

"I had some trouble because I wasn't able to

eat," Aru said. "I didn't have enough sugar. It can happen to anyone."

Stage 13 Friday is an entirely flat 147-kilometer (91-mile) leg from Montecchio Maggiore to Jesolo — in the Venice area.

Stage 14 Saturday could be the most important leg of the race, an unusually long individual time trial at 59.4 kilometers (36.9 miles) from Treviso to Valdobbiadene.

The 98th Giro ends on May 31 in Milan. □



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Paralyzed man uses his thoughts to control a robotic arm

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man paralyzed by gunshot more than a decade ago can shake hands, drink beer and play “rock, paper, scissors” by controlling a robotic arm with his thoughts, researchers reported.

Two years ago, doctors in California implanted a pair of tiny chips into the brain of Erik Sorto that decoded his thoughts to move the free-standing robotic arm. The 34-year-old has been working with researchers and occupational therapists to practice and fine-tune his movements.

It's the latest attempt at creating mind-controlled prosthetics to help disabled people gain more independence. In the last decade, several people outfitted with brain implants have used their minds to control a computer cursor or steer prosthetic limbs.

Here are some things to know about the new work, published Thursday by the journal Science:

THE STUDY

Doctors at the University of Southern California implanted small chips into Sorto's brain during a five-hour surgery in 2013. The sensors recorded the electrical activity of about 100 brain cells as Sorto imagined reaching and grasping. Researchers asked Sorto to think about what he wanted to do instead of breaking down the steps of the movements, said principal investigator Richard Andersen at the California Institute of Technology.

After weeks of imagining movements, Sorto trained with Caltech scientists and therapists at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center to move the robotic arm, starting with a



In this March 28, 2014 photo provided by the California Institute of Technology, Erik Sorto uses his mind to control a robotic arm to make a smoothie in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

handshake and graduating to more complicated tasks. The sensors relayed their signals to the arm, bypassing Sorto's damaged spinal cord.

THE DIFFERENCE

Scientists have long strived to make robotic arms produce movements that are as natural as possible. Previous research targeted a region of the brain known as the motor cortex, which controls movement.

The new work zeroed in on a different area of the brain — the posterior parietal cortex — that's involved in the planning of movements. The hope is that this strategy will lead

to smoother motions.

It's unclear whether the new approach is better because no side-by-side comparisons have been made yet, but it gives researchers a potential new target in the brain.

PAST WORK

In 2012, a Massachusetts woman paralyzed for 15 years directed a robotic arm to pick up a bottle of coffee and bring it to her lips. In another instance, a quadriplegic man in Pennsylvania used a robotic arm to give a high-five and stroke his girlfriend's hand.

SORTO'S STORY

Sorto has a caregiver at home, but he goes to the

rehab center several times a week to practice using the robotic arm.

Since suffering a gunshot wound 13 years ago, he longed to drink a beer without help. The first time he tried with the prosthetic arm, he was so excited that he lost his concentration and caused the arm to spill the drink. On the second try, he directed the arm to pick up the bottle and bring it to his mouth where he sipped through a straw. The beer tasted “like a little piece of heaven,” Sorto said.

THE FUTURE

Despite progress in the last decade, hurdles remain

before brain-controlled prosthetics can help paralyzed people in their daily lives.

Experts said computer programs must run faster to interpret brain signals and the brain implants must be more durable.

Currently, wire connections run from a patient's brain to outside the skull, increasing the risk of infections. Future systems need to be wireless and contained within the body like pacemakers, experts J. Andrew Pruszynski of Western University in Canada and Jorn Diedrichsen of University College London wrote in an accompanying editorial. □

CVS paying \$10.4B in cash for drug distributor Omnicare

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

CVS Health will pay more than \$10 billion for pharmaceutical distributor Omnicare in a deal primed to feed its fast-growing specialty drug business and tap a lucrative and growing market: care for the elderly. The acquisition announced Thursday will give one of the biggest U.S. pharmacy benefits managers national reach in dispensing prescription drugs to

assisted living and skilled nursing homes, long-term care facilities, hospitals and other care providers. Omnicare's long-term care business operates in 47 states and the District of Columbia. The deal also will bring in more business doling out specialty drugs. These complex and expensive medications for cancer, hepatitis C and other conditions can represent treatment breakthroughs but are raising growing concerns over

cost. Insurers and other bill payers want help containing that expense. Specialty drug revenue soared 46 percent for CVS Health in the first quarter, helping the company trump analyst expectations and make up for a sales hit from its decision to stop selling tobacco products last year in its drugstores. CVS Health also runs the nation's second largest drug-store chain, trailing only Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.

Cincinnati-based Omnicare's core business involves distributing drugs and providing pharmacy services to long-term care providers, a market CVS Health doesn't currently serve. CVS Health CEO Larry Merlo told analysts that represents a "substantial growth opportunity" for his company, with the U.S. population aging. U.S. Census Bureau researchers have predicted that the population age

65 and older will approach 84 million people by 2050, nearly double its total in 2012, due largely to the aging baby-boom generation. Merlo noted that older people are more likely to take several medications and can have trouble making sure their prescriptions follow them as they move from their own home to long-term care or other settings. He believes his company can help ease these transitions. □

Wall Street hits record as rising oil boosts energy sector



Shopify CFO Russ Jones, center, rings a ceremonial bell as the Canadian company's IPO begins trading, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, May 21, 2015. The stock market eked out another record close on Thursday as rising oil prices boosted energy stocks.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market eked out another record close on Thursday as rising oil prices boosted energy stocks. Best Buy was among the biggest gainers after re-

porting earnings that exceeded the expectations of Wall Street analysts. Lumber Liquidators, a specialty retailer of hardwood flooring, plunged after its CEO abruptly quit the company. Stocks are trading at record levels, but the mar-

ket's gains this week have been modest. On the one hand, signs that the economy is flagging suggest that the Federal Reserve will likely refrain from raising rates until later in the year at the earliest. The central bank has kept

its benchmark interest rate close to zero for more than six years. That's been a good backdrop for stocks. On the other hand, if the economy fails to pick up sufficiently, corporate earnings will suffer. That would hurt stocks. Also, after a six-year bull market, stocks are no longer cheap. "At this point, there's a bit of a wait-and-see attitude," said Stephen Freedman, head of cross-asset strategy at UBS Wealth Management. "There's uncertainty about the Fed and there's uncertainty about the growth outlook in the U.S." The Standard & Poor's closed up 4.97 points, or 0.2 percent, at 2,130.82. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 0.34 point to 18,285.74. The Nasdaq composite rose 19.05 points, or 0.4 percent, to 5,090.79. Trading volume was lower than average ahead of the Memorial Day holiday in the U.S. on Monday. Best Buy was among the day's biggest

gainers, jumping after the company reported strong earnings. The electronics retailer said sales of mobile phones, big televisions and major appliances helped sales, offsetting weakness in tablets and computers. Its stock jumped \$1.33, or 3.9 percent, to \$35.11. Lumber Liquidators fell sharply after CEO Robert Lynch abruptly resigned. The company is embroiled in an investigation over products imported from China after the CBS news show "60 Minutes" first reported in March that some of its flooring contained high levels of the carcinogen formaldehyde, a dangerous chemical. The company's stock dropped \$4.17, or 16.5 percent, to \$21.10. In energy trading, the price of oil rose sharply for the second day in a row on a decline in the value of the dollar, which made oil, which is priced in dollars, more attractive to overseas buyers. □

Hewlett-Packard sells stake in Chinese unit for \$2.3B

MAE ANDERSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hewlett-Packard is selling a controlling stake in its China server and storage unit, a move that comes as the Chinese government, apparently worried about U.S. cyber-spying, has encouraged the use of local companies. HP said Thursday it will sell the 51 percent stake in the business for about \$2.3

billion to Tsinghua Holdings, part of state-owned Tsinghua University. The sale will create a partnership to be called H3C. HP said the move will accelerate growth in the country. "HP is making a bold move to win in today's China," said CEO Meg Whitman. "Partnering with Tsinghua, one of China's most respected institutions, the new H3C will be able to

drive even greater innovation for China, in China." Analysts have noted that the Chinese government has been increasingly restrictive about international tech companies amid growing concerns that the U.S. has been spying on China remotely. Although no official restrictions have been confirmed, some big companies in China have stopped using U.S. tech ser-

vices from companies like Symantec and IBM over the past few years. Cantor Fitzgerald analyst Brian White said in a note to clients that the partnership is a positive step for HP "in light of the growing backlash against U.S. IT companies selling into China that has further accelerated sharply in recent months." HP will maintain ownership of its other businesses in

China, including business services, software, HP Helion Cloud and other operations. "We believe the deal (with Tsinghua) will help HP become more competitive in the China market given the recent Chinese government preference to purchase technology from local vendors," said Wells Fargo analyst Maynard Um in a research note. □

What 'Wild' Has Wrought



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

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ON THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Calif. - This is arguably America's greatest hiking trail, a 2,650-mile serpentine path running through desert and wilderness from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. The Pacific Crest Trail meanders through cactus and redwoods, challenging humans with rivers and snowfields, rattlesnakes and bears.

It's a trail of extremes. Hiking it with my daughter near the Mexican border this month, we sweltered on our first day in soaring temperatures and a 20-mile dry section through the desert. Six days and a bit more than 150 miles later, near the town of Idyllwild, we shivered in 30-degree temperatures as the heavens dumped snow on us. The trail is a triumph of serenity and solitude. Except that, these days, the solitude is getting crowded.

Apparently, in part because of the book and movie versions of "Wild," about Cheryl Strayed's journey of discovery and self-repair on her hike, some areas of the trail feel as busy as a scout jamboree.

I've been backpacking the Pacific Crest Trail since I was a kid, inspired by the first person to complete a thru-hike from Canada to Mexico, Eric Ryback, who wrote a book published in 1971 about his feat. My 17-year-old daughter and I aim to eventually hike the full trail, section by section, in this narrow window in which she is strong enough and I'm not yet decrepit. Last year, we completed Oregon and Washington, and this month's section took us through the southernmost part of California desert.

Fewer people have hiked the full Pacific Crest Trail than have reached the summit of Mount Everest. Yet, this year, so many want to hike it that a limit has been placed on permits so that no more than 50 thru-hikers can begin at the Mexican border each day.

Another memoir may add to the mystique. In "Girl in the Woods," scheduled for publication in September, with a possible television spinoff, Aspen Matis recounts how she was raped on the second day of college and then fled campus to seek healing on a Pacific Crest Trail thru-hike. She starved

and suffered on the trail but also found redemption - and, yes, her future husband by the 2,000 mile mark.

(I wonder if women don't have the edge in trail memoirs. Male hikers project toughness, female hikers vulnerability. Ask a man resting on a trailside log how he's doing, and he'll boast of how many miles he has walked. Ask a woman, and she'll confide about her blisters, mosquito bites and insecurities. That's not universally true, as Bill Bryson can attest, but women seem more comfortable opening up about the woes that are inevitably much more interesting than the miles.)

Most would-be thru-hikers will probably drop out - one woman gave up this year on the first day, after 13 miles - but hundreds are expected to walk every step of the way to Canada. Old hands fret that these neophytes don't know what they're doing (The Wall Street Journal quoted one woman this month who had never spent a night outdoors until she began her "Wild"-inspired hike) and could endanger themselves. The trail begins at the Mexican border with a 20-mile dry stretch, and my daughter and I ran across five inexperienced men who had all separately run out of water on that stretch and become dehydrated.

Drought has also forced hikers to carry more water: The first eight creeks that we crossed were dry.

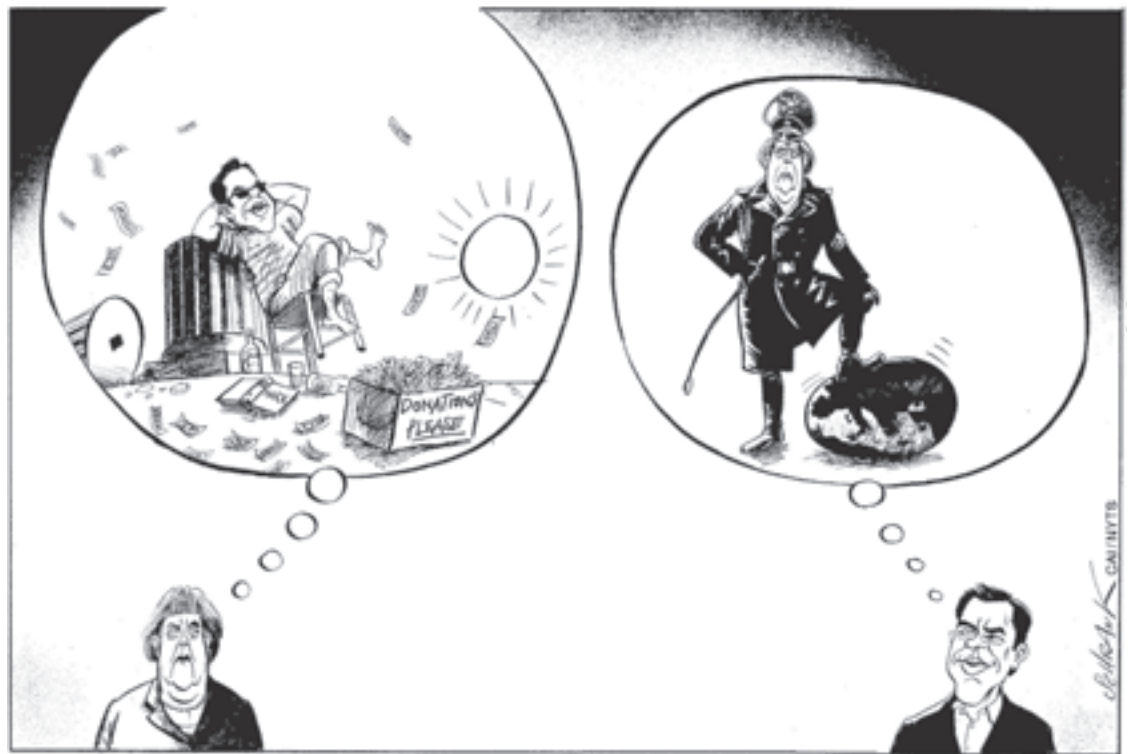
We encountered another hazard in the form of a rattlesnake that my daughter almost stepped on. Yet, in the end, most hikers do just fine, apart from blisters and a few lost toenails, and it's hard to begrudge anyone the chance for a bit of nature therapy in the Cathedral of Wilderness.

It's striking that hikers come to the trail for solitary reflection, yet often end up coalescing into groups - because we are social animals, and solitude is so much more fun when you have somebody to share it with.

There's a hobo spirit on the trail, with no social distinctions and everybody helping everyone else. One example of this generosity is the work of "trail angels" who lug water, soda, hamburgers, cookies or other treats to places where a road intersects a trail, to delight exhausted backpackers. This is controversial, partly because animals also dine on treats that are left out, and it's also not exactly wilderness when you come across a cooler with soda.

Still, all this generosity and mutual assistance is truly heartwarming. At about the 140-mile mark, my daughter and I came across a trail angel "library" - a glass-protected bookshelf of paperbacks for any hikers needing to weather out a snowstorm.

Professor Robert Putnam of Harvard may be right that an unfortunate fragmentation of society has left us Americans "bowling alone." But, on the brighter side, we're "hiking together"!



Do Churches Fail the Poor?



ROSS DOUTHAT

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Last week two prominent Americans - an eminent social scientist and the president of the United States - decided to answer the question: How have America's churches failed the poor?

Their answer was one deeply congenial to the progressive mind: They've been too obsessed with the culture war.

"Over the last 30 years," Harvard's Robert Putnam told The Washington Post, "most organized religion has focused on issues regarding sexual morality, such as abortion, gay marriage, all of those. I'm not saying if that's good or bad, but that's what they've been using all their resources for ... It's been entirely focused on issues of homosexuality and contraception and not at all focused on issues of poverty."

President Barack Obama's version, delivered when he shared a stage with Putnam at Georgetown University, was nuanced but similar in thrust: "Despite great caring and concern," the president remarked, when churches pick "the defining issue" that's "really going to capture the essence of who we are as Christians," fighting poverty is often seen as merely "nice to have" compared to "an issue like abortion."

It would be too kind to call these comments wrong; they were ridiculous. Not only because (as Putnam acknowledged) believers personally give abundantly to charity, but because institutionally the churches of America use "all their resources" in ways that completely belie the idea that they're obsessed with

culture war.

As Mark Hemingway of The Weekly Standard pointed out, "Even the most generous estimates of the resources devoted to pro-life causes and organizations defending traditional marriage are just a few hundred million dollars." Whereas the budgets of American religious charities and schools and hospitals and other nonprofits are tabulated in the tens of billions. (Indeed, as Bloomberg View's Megan McArdle noted, some of that money - from Catholic sources - paid Obama's first community-organizer salary.)

This reality is reflected in the atmosphere of most churches and the public statements of their leaders. Anyone who tells you that America's pastors are obsessed with homosexuality or abortion only hears them through a media filter. You can attend Masses or mega-churches for months without having those issues intrude; you can bore yourself to tears reading denominational statements and bishops' documents (true long before Pope Francis) with a similar result. The belief that organized religion is organized around culture war is largely a conceit of the irreligious.

Is there a version of the Obama-Putnam critique that makes any sense? Maybe they just meant to criticize religious leaders who make opposition to abortion more of a political priority than publicly-funded anti-poverty efforts. But even this critique essentially erases black and Latino churches (who reliably support social programs), ignores decades worth of pro-welfare-state talk from Catholic bishops, and treats the liberal Protestant mainline as dead already.

It also conveniently absolves liberalism of any responsibility for pushing churchgoing Americans toward the small-government GOP. That's an absolution that the Obama White House, with its pro-choice maximalism and attempts to strong-arm religious nonprofits, particularly needs.

No, to actually save the critique, you have to transform it completely. There is a case that churches are failing poorer Americans. But the problem isn't how they spend money or play politics. It's a more basic failure to reach out, integrate, and keep them in the pews.

This is the striking story of the last 30 years: Despite the stereotype of religion as something that people "cling to" (to quote a different moment of condescension from this president) in desperate circumstances, actual religious practice has collapsed more quickly among Americans with weaker economic prospects than it has among the college-educated upper class.

Mere religious affiliation has weakened for the poor and working class as well. The much-discussed rise of the "nones" - Americans with no religious affiliation - has been happening in blue-collar America as well as among the hyper-educated.

From a religious perspective, this a signal failure: A church that pays out to help the poor, but doesn't pray with them, looks less like a church than what Pope Francis has described, unfavorably, as merely another NGO.

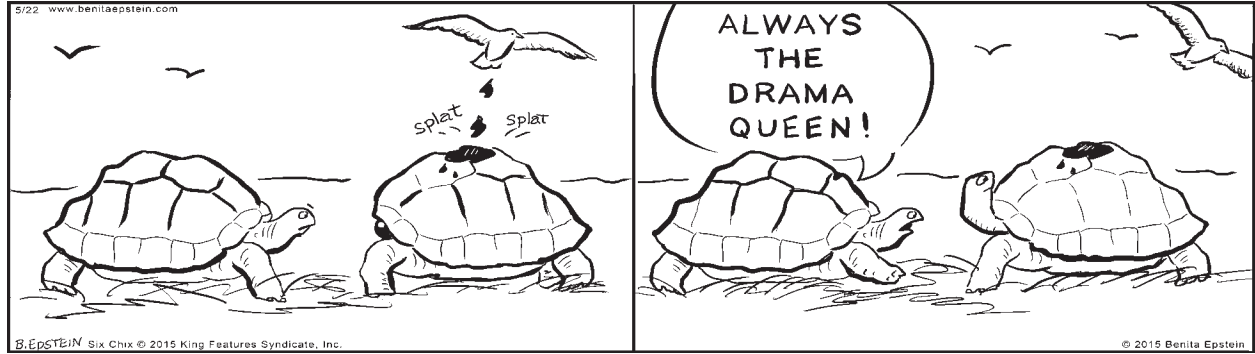
But even from a secular perspective it's a problem, because (as Putnam's work stresses) the social benefits of religion are stronger further down the socioeconomic ladder, and these benefits are delivered through community, practice and belonging. So churches that spend or lobby effectively for the poor but are stratified come Sunday morning offer less to the common good than if they won a more diverse array of souls.

This critique actually lays a heavier burden on believers than the one Obama and Putnam offered. Their unjust accusation is easily answered by citing what religious Americans do already. The just one, though, requires doing something new. □

Mutts



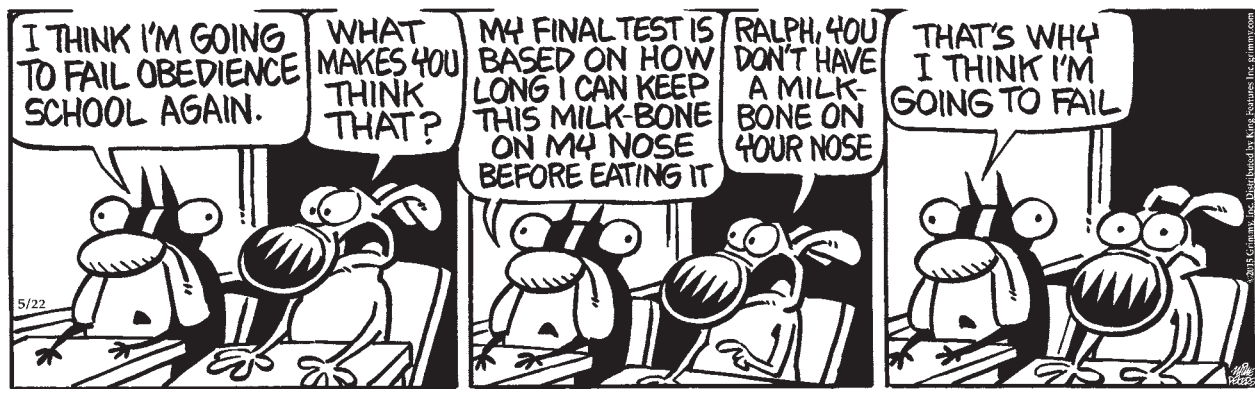
6 Chix



Blondie



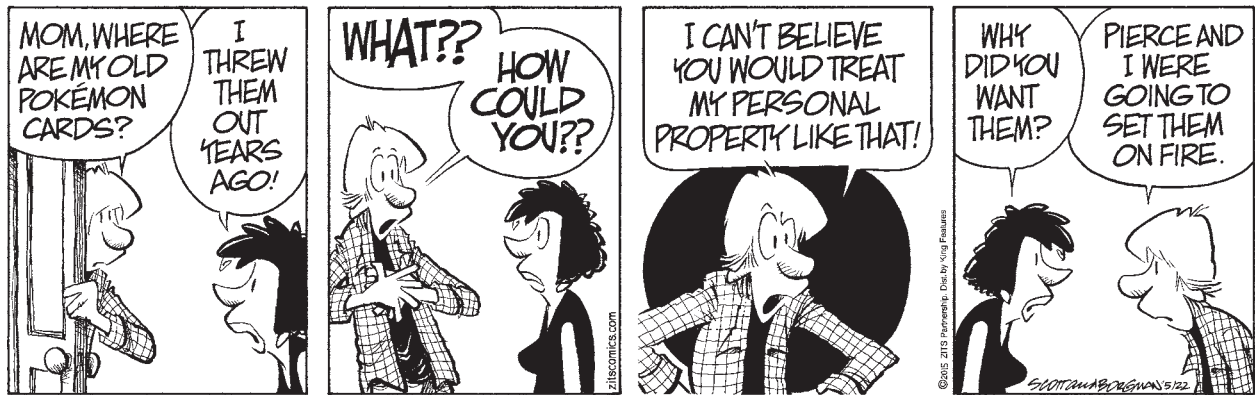
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9				4		
	6		3		7		8	
			4		1			
	3	2				7	5	
	7	8				1	2	
			1		8			
	8		7		6		3	
		4				6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/22

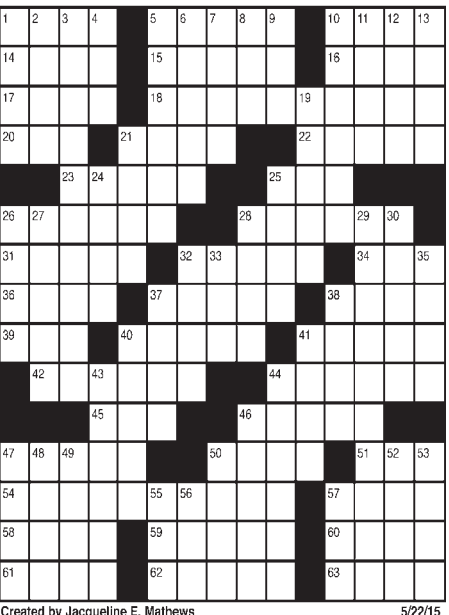
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	1	9	5	7	2	8	4	3
5	8	7	4	6	3	1	2	9
2	3	4	9	1	8	5	6	7
9	2	6	1	8	7	3	5	4
4	7	8	3	5	6	9	1	2
3	5	1	2	9	4	7	8	6
7	9	5	6	4	1	2	3	8
8	6	2	7	3	5	4	9	1
1	4	3	8	2	9	6	7	5

ACROSS

- 1 Sullen
5 "Turkey in the"
10 Unpleasant
14 "The _____ Ranger"
15 Harmony
16 Zero
17 As neat as _____
18 Redundancy
20 ABC followers
21 Angry speech
22 Log floats
23 Follows orders
25 Holiday or _____
26 Pester; torment
28 Horse's gait
31 Fess up
32 Rocky ridges
34 Hillary, to _____
36 Narrow cut
37 Distributed cards
38 Poet Angelou
39 Big success
40 Necklace bead
41 Of the kidneys
42 Side street
44 Physical strength
45 Most common conjunction
46 Cold rice with raw fish
47 Plant pest
50 Blaze
51 Skillet
54 _____ ads; section of a newspaper
57 Sickly looking
58 "The buck stops _____"
59 Slight coloring
60 Machines that spew \$20 bills, for short
61 Sups
62 Look of contempt
63 Examination
- DOWN
1 Pleased
2 Easy stride
3 Sameness



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

GET	HAREM	JUTS
AVID	I LOVE	OGRE
BADE	SELES	SLEW
SEAFARERS	EYES	
DENT	HIP	
SPREAD	TEACHERS	
POINT	LOWLY	MET
RIND	TOWEL	HOBO
ASS	MUSES	TATER
TEENAGER	NICELY	
ADO	WEEK	
CHIC	FISHERMEN	
OATH	WOODED	AXES
ALSO	AWARE	NEAT
TEAS	RAKED	SRS

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40 Small lakes
41 Trick
43 Lifts up
44 Homicide
46 Prolonged attack
47 Cramp
48 Entreaty
49 Male red deer

50 Not coarse
52 Charitable gift
53 TV's "Empty"
55 "If _____ all the same to you..."
56 Swim _____
57 Mrs. Nixon

Palmyra

Continued on Page 27

With the capture of Palmyra, the Islamic State militants now control half of Syria and most of the country's oil wells, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, making it the group with the most territory under its authority among the myriad factions fighting in the country's civil war. Its vast terrain inside Syria stretches from the group's westernmost strongholds in Aleppo province to its core territory in northeastern Syria down to central Syria, with footholds in Damascus. Palmyra's location in Syria's heartland offers the militants several important advantages, said Faysal Itani, a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council. The town can now be used as a launching pad to threaten government positions and supply lines south of Aleppo and east of Homs and Hama, and open up a new approach to Damascus, seat of Assad's power. IS can also threaten regime supply lines to the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, where government forces are still holding out against the militants.

"If IS manages to cut off Deir el-Zour, it is likely that the city would fall, essentially ending regime presence in that province, and consolidating IS' core territory," he said. The fall of Palmyra follows major setbacks for Assad in northern and southern Syria. "This is simply an indication of how overstretched the regime is," Itani said.

The militants' capture of Palmyra came just days after Islamic State fighters seized the strategic Iraqi city of Ramadi, illustrating the extremists' ability to advance on multiple fronts at opposite ends of a sprawling battlefield that spans the two countries, where it has declared a caliphate or Islamic state on the territory it controls.

At the White House, Press Secretary Josh Earnest described the developments

in Palmyra and Ramadi as setbacks, but insisted the U.S.-led air campaign was making progress overall "in degrading ISIL capabilities."

The head of the U.N.'s cultural agency called on Syria's warring factions to immediately end hostilities around the archaeological site.

"I am extremely worried about what happens in Palmyra," UNESCO chief Irina Bokova said. "Palmyra is an extraordinary world heritage site in the desert and any destruction to Palmyra is not just a war crime, but ... an enormous loss to humanity."

Al-Azm said he expected the militants to turn to looting and excavating the town's antiquities, selling the artifacts on the black market before eventually destroying the site.

In taking Palmyra, IS also seized control of the notorious Tadmur Prison, freeing some of those imprisoned inside, said Bebars al-Talawy, a Homs activist. The government had already transferred thousands of detainees from the prison to a jail near Damascus as IS attacked the city, al-Talawy said. Thousands were believed to still be inside, he said, but he couldn't provide precise figures. □

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U.S. black bear could move off threatened-species list

JANET McCONNAUGHEY
 Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP) — Officials say it's time to get the animal that inspired teddy bears off the list of protected species.

The Louisiana black bear population, once down to fewer than 100, has recovered, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is making a formal proposal to remove the bear from the list of threatened species, Deputy Director Steve Guertin said Wednesday. Removal from the list would eventually let hunters kill at least a few of the bears that inspired plush "Teddy's bears" after President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a tied-up animal for a hunt trophy in 1902. Any hunting would begin after the bear is off the list and would be controlled as part of a management plan like the one under which alligators — on the endangered species list until 1987 — are hunted. And delisting takes a year or more.

State Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham said millions of children "can go to sleep cuddling their teddy bears and be sure that bear will be around for generations to come." The news conference was on the Governor's Mansion lawn in front of tall banners, one with a photo of a little cub on a tree and the words "A Louisiana legacy ... recovered" and the other with a yearling bear and "Our state mammal ... the Louisiana black bear."

Harold Schoeffler, chairman of the local Sierra Club and the person whose legal actions prompted both the listing and the designation of critical habitat, said he thinks officials might decide that more study is needed before a decision should be made. If they decide to delist



In this May 17, 2015 photo, a Louisiana Black Bear, sub-species of the black bear that is protected under the Endangered Species Act, sits in a water oak tree in Marksville, La. **of Associated Press**

the bear, "then we would consider litigation," he said.

Schoeffler said he'd like to see the bears reintroduced to other areas where they once lived, such as Texas.

Louisiana black bears once ranged throughout Louisiana, southern Mississippi and eastern Texas. Now they're found mostly in four areas in Louisiana, with some in south Arkansas and others in west Mississippi.

There are 350 to 600 north of Interstate 10 in Louisiana, where years of study went into a DNA census released last year by the U.S. Geological Survey, and an uncounted number south of I-10, a barrier for the bears.

Gov. Bobby Jindal estimated the number at up to 1,000; Schoeffler estimated it at 750.

The state wildlife department's website has a poster pointing out the differences between feral hogs, which can legally be hunted, and black bears.

Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt IV, an investment banker, told the story of his great-grandfather's hunts for black bears in Mississippi. He said the president wanted to hunt bears on horses with hounds, but in 1902 his hosts insisted that he stay behind a blind while the guide chased a bear to him. "The horns got farther and farther away. The sound got fainter and fainter and eventually died out," he said. After awhile, the hosts suggested lunch — and when the guide returned, Roosevelt was gone. Dogs jumped on the bear, which went into the water with one of the dogs. The guide tried to rescue the dog, clubbing the bear with his rifle. Eventually, he got his lariat, put a noose around the bear and tied it to a tree. When the president returned and saw the bear, he raised his hand in rejection — a scene made famous by Washington Post cartoonist Clifford Berryman. Ted Roosevelt gave large copies of that cartoon to Jindal, Guertin and Barham. □



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24

Rolling Stones rock small LA club ahead of stadium tour

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rolling Stones ripped through the intimate Fonda Theatre Wednesday with enough energy to fuel their entire 15-city North American tour.

The band announced Wednesday morning it would perform a "club show" that night to kick off its Zip Code tour, which launches Sunday in San Diego. The surprise concert at the 1,300-person-capacity venue instantly sold out. And one fan outside the theater offered \$4,000 for one ticket.

The Stones played for an hour and a half, including the entire "Sticky Fingers" album, with the same enthusiasm they had when the record was released in 1971.

"So this is our first show of our tour," an animated Mick Jagger said. "Tonight we're doing something we've never done before... We're going to do the whole of 'Sticky Fingers.'"

The group is re-releasing the album next week.

They played each of the tracks as promised, with Jagger exhibiting the en-



This Feb. 26, 2014 file photo shows Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones performing during their concert at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

ergy of a high-school cheerleader throughout. (Doesn't he know he's 71?!) He strutted and boogied, puffed out his birdlike chest, punched the air and wiggled his wiry frame. He grinned and clapped and urged the audience to join along. And he was in exceptionally fine voice. Who

cares if he can't hit the very highest notes anymore? Keith Richards was in fine voice, too, and extra smiley. With his white hair and gray pallor, The 71-year-old guitarist kind of looks like he's made of cigarette ashes, but his guitar is ever young, and Richards looked like he was having fun.

Same for Ronnie Wood, all cheekbones and sinew, and drummer Charlie Watts, who shared a toothy smile with Jagger.

At times, there were as many as 11 musicians on stage, with two keyboardists, two backup singers, two saxophone players and a bassist joining the

four Stones members.

The crowd was just as starry, with Jack Nicholson, Bruce Willis, Harry Styles, Leonard Cohen and Kesha among those enjoying the show from the private balcony, open strictly to VIPs.

Jagger was the master of ceremonies, and he was in great spirits.

"I should have warned you before, but there may be a lot of '60s drug references on this record that may puzzle some people. It was a great, groovy scene," he said as he introduced "Sister Morphine."

"That's seriously a bit of a down song," he said when they finished it. "And there's more to come!"

Jagger strapped on an acoustic guitar to perform "Wild Horses," and Richards sat down with a 12-string for "You've Got to Move."

The set also included "Start Me Up," "When the Whip Comes Down" and "All Down the Line."

The band used its encore to pay tribute to the late BB King, who died last week.

"He was one of our favorite guitarists," Jagger said, "a wonderful guy who played with us on a number of occasions." □

Associated Press

Emily Blunt lets her actions and characters do the talking

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — Emily Blunt didn't come to the Cannes Film Festival to talk about shoes.

She may have breezily, without hesitation, called out the silliness of any red-carpet dress code that would turn away women in flat shoes "in 2015," drawing headlines for her matter-of-fact defense of several heel-less guests who were refused admission to a premiere. Blunt won't hesitate to speak her mind, but she would rather let her actions — and her characters — do the talking.

"We need to take more action and talk less about it," Blunt said in an interview shortly after her "Sicario" premiered at Cannes. "I sometimes feel you can exacerbate a problem by



Actress Emily Blunt poses for a portrait at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

talking about it until you're blue in the face and putting further and further stamps on the divide. Instead of having nights that celebrate women in Hollywood, we should organize programs where you pay

for female writers to develop their skills."

Blunt's skills are prominently on display in "Sicario," a drug war thriller directed by Denis Villeneuve that's among the films competing in Cannes for the Palme

d'Or. Lionsgate will release it in the U.S. on Sept. 18. She plays Kate Macy, a steely FBI agent whose brave efficiency gets her enlisted in a covert CIA task force (led by Josh Brolin) aiming to take down a Mexican cartel boss.

As the mission increasingly pushes the boundaries of legal law enforcement, Macy becomes ever more wary. As practically the only female in the film, her strong presence anchors "Sicario."

"I don't ever relate to characters that don't have their s--- together in their 30s," says Blunt. "I've been offered a couple parts like that and I just say, 'I don't relate to it.'"

I don't understand it. I don't have an interest in playing those kinds of parts. As I get older, I just love see-

ing people that don't have their head in their hands. I like seeing people who cope."

The performance in "Sicario" has put Blunt among the women who have defined this year's Cannes Film Festival, from Cate Blanchett in the '50s lesbian drama "Carol" to Charlize Theron in the dystopian drag race "Mad Max: Fury Road," for their solitary strength in male-dominated worlds. Before Blunt came aboard "Sicario," there was pressure to change her role to a man.

"It's more an anomaly to see a character like this in cinema," says Blunt. "But the reality from the FBI agents that I spoke to, there's a lot of chicks in law enforcement. We just don't make movies about them very often." □

Associated Press

Closing Out a Late-Night Era, Letterman Goes for Laughs Instead of Tears

DAVE ITZKOFF

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NEW YORK - There were jokes cracked and tributes paid. There were retrospectives and reminiscences, and a rock band that played at maximum volume. There was, of course, one last Top 10 list, delivered by a parade of celebrity guests.

As David Letterman closed the book on his last "Late Show" Wednesday night, after a 33-year run in late-night television, he went for laughs rather than tears.

This all-star edition of the show was an exuberant, self-deprecating celebration of Letterman's work and accomplishments as the host with the longest tenure in U.S. late-night TV. To its end, Letterman remained true to a personal sensibility of delivering sarcastic comedy with a straight face and rarely allowed mawkish sentimentality to creep into the show.

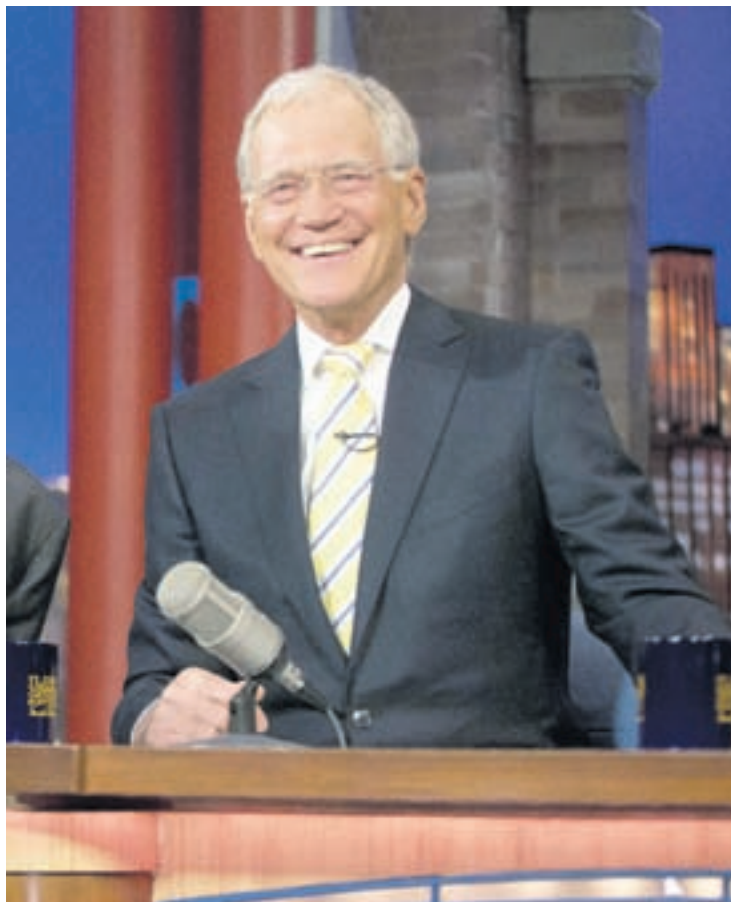
Noting all the praise he has received of late, Letterman said, "Do me a favor. Save a little for my funeral."

Before its opening credits, the program began with stock footage of former President Gerald R. Ford saying, "Our long national nightmare is over." A pre-recorded segment showed former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush repeating this phrase, followed by President Barack Obama, who added the words, "Letterman is retiring."

Letterman was welcomed to the stage of the Ed Sullivan Theater in Manhattan with a standing ovation and performed a customary opening monologue filled with gags about his impending exit.

Observing that he had been repeatedly asked about his post-"Late Show" plans, Letterman said, "By God, I hope to become the new face of Scientology."

Suggesting another possibility, Letterman said that next month, he and Paul Shaffer, his longtime bandleader and sidekick, "will be debuting our new act at Caesars Palace with



Host David Letterman smiles during a break at a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman," at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York. After 33 years in late night and 22 years hosting CBS' "Late Show," Letterman retired on May 20.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

our white tigers."

His current transition had been especially hard on his young son, Harry, he said, adding: "My son keeps saying, 'Why does daddy have to go to prison?'"

Letterman's final Top 10 list, titled "Things I've Always Wanted to Say to Dave," featured a sequence of celebrity visitors, each delivering a comically dismissive riposte to the host. (No. 8, from Steve Martin, was, "Your extensive plastic surgery was a necessity and a mistake." No. 2, from Tina Fey, was "Thanks for finally proving men can be funny.")

Foo Fighters, the rock band led by Dave Grohl, played its hit song "Everlong," reprising a number the group had performed for Letterman in 2000, when he returned to the "Late Show" after having had quintuple-bypass heart surgery. At that time, he had introduced the performance as "my favorite band playing my favorite song."

Letterman had hosted more than 4,000 episodes of the "Late Show" since its debut on CBS in 1993, and in his late-night television career, more than 6,000, in-



Brian Hawkins and Kathleen Kennedy, visiting from Folly Beach, S.C., take a selfie outside the Ed Sullivan Theater on the day of the "Late Show with David Letterman" show's final episode, in New York, May 20, 2015. On Wednesday night on CBS, after 33 years as a host, the longest late-night tenure ever, Letterman closed out his career with his 6,028th episode.

(Sam Hodgson/The New York Times)

cluding nearly 2,000 installments of his NBC program, "Late Night," which ran for 11 years starting in 1982. He revealed on the "Late Show" in April 2014 that he planned to step down. ("What this means now," Letterman said at the time, "is that Paul and I can be married.") CBS later announced that Letterman would be succeeded by

Stephen Colbert, the political satirist of Comedy Central's "Colbert Report," who will take over in September. On the "Late Show" finale, Letterman offered an enthusiastic endorsement of Colbert. "I'm very excited," Letterman said. "I think he's going to do a wonderful job, and I wish Stephen and his staff and crew nothing but the greatest success." In recent weeks, a cavalcade of faithful and high-profile guests have stopped by to bid Letterman farewell, including Julia Roberts, Jerry Seinfeld, Oprah Winfrey and George Clooney, as well as Obama and Clinton.

On Tuesday, in his penultimate broadcast, he welcomed comic actor Bill Murray, who had also been his first guest on the "Late Show" and on "Late Night." (In his typically haphazard and whimsical manner, Murray emerged from a cake and smeared icing

utes to him over the past several days.

On Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," Jon Stewart called Letterman's show "an incredible epiphany," adding, "For God's sakes, the man put a camera on a monkey." On ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," a visibly moved Kimmel said he "learned almost nothing at college" but learned "how to do everything from Dave."

Letterman had said that, in his final episode, he did not necessarily want to duplicate the sentimental tone of his mentor, Johnny Carson, who signed off from NBC's "Tonight" show in 1992.

"I want it to be upbeat, and I want it to be funny, and I want people to be happy that they spent the time to watch it," Letterman said of his last "Late Show" in an interview with The New York Times.

"Of course, Johnny's last

show was historic," he added. "This one won't be." In his concluding remarks before introducing the Foo Fighters, Letterman thanked his "Late Show" staff and crew and the band members of his CBS Orchestra, saying, "These people deserve more credit for this show than I ever will." □

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